

PAST & PRESENT

THE FAMILIES OF

THOMAS SCOULLER
&
JOHN PETER NORDWELL

Ralph Roderick

December 1985



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&
JOHN PETER NORDWELL

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DEDICATION

Hamilton, Madison, Jefferson and Franklin are but a few who provided the framework for the new nation . . . the United States of America. But it was through the sacrifices, the spirit and hard toil of our ancestors and others like them that made the country strong. This book is dedicated to the memory of four such often forgotten Americans: John and Martha Nordwell, and Thomas and Anna Scouller . . . my great grandparents.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SOURCES

This book would be but two covers if it weren't for the generous giving of those who know something of our past. To them go my thanks and I'm sure everyone elses.

The Cover and Chapter Fronts

By Aymalee Roderick, my wife

The Stories

The stories were compiled through interviews with the eldest members of the respective families, and from family records, official documents, such as property deeds, church records and military records and history books.

Special thanks go to:

Winnie Nordwell Stevens of Goldendale, Washington
Melburn "Nick" Nordwell of Goldendale, Washington
Lilly Scouller Jacob of Yakima, Washington
Thomas Scouller of Camano Island, Washington
Ernie Scouller of Oak Harbor, Washington
Bonnie Nordwell Barton of Centralia, Washington
Elsie Purviance Eschbach of Yakima, Washington
Anna Nordwell Kingery of Elma, Washington
Helen Nordwell Bateman of Chehalis, Washington
Hugh and Merline Mason of Centralia, Washington
Gladys Mason Madoche of Montesano, Washington
Mary Nordwell Roderick of Elma, Washington
Edith Nordwell Roderick of Montesano, Washington
Ernie Nordwell of Port Angeles, Washington

Photographs

It's been said that photos are worth a thousand words. They certainly provide great memories and more vivid detail than my written words! In conjunction with the interviewing I got into taking a photo of old family pictures. The brave souls who entrusted me with their priceless treasures are:

Lilly Jacob of Yakima who has Thomas Scouller's old photos
Winnie Stevens of Goldendale who has Olaf Nordwell's photos
Bonnie Barton of Centralia who has Oscar's and John P. Nordwell's photos
Elsie Eschbach of Yakima who has Scouller and Toy photos
Kathleen Weise of Alix Canada who has old Scouller photos
Hugh and Merline Mason of Centralia who has Hazel Mason's photos
Lessie Washington of Seattle who has Lester Nordwell's photos
Karen Burns of Shelton who has some of Ernie Nordwell's photos
And the five other Nordwells; Anna, Helen, Mary, Edith and Ernie who shared their family photos

From these people 500 or so family photos have been gathered. The collection includes a proof sheet of each roll taken, negatives and a log identifying each photo. The photo's in the book are representative. With negatives in hand, any photo can be had for the price of a reprinting; 30 to 40 cents today.

For those interested in looking over the photos and possibly ordering some I'll be figuring out how to make them available. Keep in touch!

The sad truth is history fades in color. You've probably seen a twenty year old color print with that washed out look. Well technology has finally caught up with the fading photo. It's called video taping. Its cheap, quick and video film does not use chemicals or magnetic tapes that can destroy color. Photo labs in Olympia charge about a $1.00 per minute of video taping and hold on each photo for 6 to 8 seconds. That works out to about 7 per minute or 15 cents each. You may want to consider having your more important color photos video taped before fading sets in.

The Maps

The maps were obtained from the Department of Transportation of the states involved. They offer excellent detail, large scale, and are not copyrighted and thus can be reproduced freely. The information I put onto the maps were obtained from county records, Metsker maps and from the people who related family stories.

The Family Charts

A lot of work, by others than myself, have gone into these all important documents. Gloria Roderick Park did the original Nordwell family tree which was later updated by Cheryl Karboski. To these efforts I've added earlier generations with the aid of Starr Genealogical Service. The Toy family prepared a chart in the 1940's. Relevant portions have been used, and again earlier generations were added with information obtained from Starr Genealogical. The early Scouller charts were compiled by Elsie Purviance Eschbach of Yakima and Merel Hall of Australia. Information on the more recent generations and updating of existing charts were coordinated through the eldest member of the respective family.

Typing

Text - Cheryl Karboski
The Family Charts of Pete & Ruby Nordwells nine children - Cheryl Karboski
All other charts - Mary Nordwell Roderick
Mapping & Photo's - Coelleen Warfe . . . a non-relative
Errors and Bad Grammar - Ralph Roderick, the author

INTRODUCTION

Its been fun compiling our family history. The Nordwells and Scoullers in the late 1800's left Europe and traveled an interesting but hard road into the modern era. Like any history though it's never truly complete. More facts await discovery, details seek clarification, errors wait correction and new borns are anxious to be listed on the family genealogical chart.

To the extent possible, I've tried to provide for future information and changes. For example, maps have been included where families have been verified to have lived and also reportedly lived. For the latter, once the specific location becomes known it will be a simple matter to mark it on the map. Spaces in the family charts have been left blank in the hopes that new information will be found.

I choose this particular style of binding for three reasons. It opens flat, it is one of the least expensive and more importantly most print shops can open it up, punch holes in new pages you may want to add and reassemble in about five minutes. Also, if the binding becomes tight as things are added it can easily be replaced with a larger one.

Talking about adding things, if you come across family information, have family records, know of births and deaths and so on please send me a copy of the specifics. Periodically I will see that the information is written up and sent to everyone. My address is on the title page.

Chapter 21 " . . . The Next Generation" is intended as a place where stories of your family can be continued. If you write something for this I would also appreciate a copy.

History records and explains past events. But facts alone do not tell the story. For instance - Fact: 1869 Wyoming becomes the first state to adopt women suffrage. Wyoming! With some reservation I figured there must have been a strong progressive population there at the time. Wrong! Reality: Women suffrage was only a fringe issue in the vote. With men out numbering women six to one they voted for suffrage in hopes of enticing women to their wilderness.

In their little way, the Nordwells and Scoullers shaped history by being a part of it. Just how they viewed, what we now call history, can not be known for sure. Times and situations certainly change how things are judged. For example, poor farmers in Europe often looked upon another child as another mouth to feed. When they came to America where food was plentiful, a new child was a pleasure and grew to become a healthy and an important addition. R. Bartlett in his book The New Country, A Social History (1974, pp 362-363) described the families importance and structure in these words:

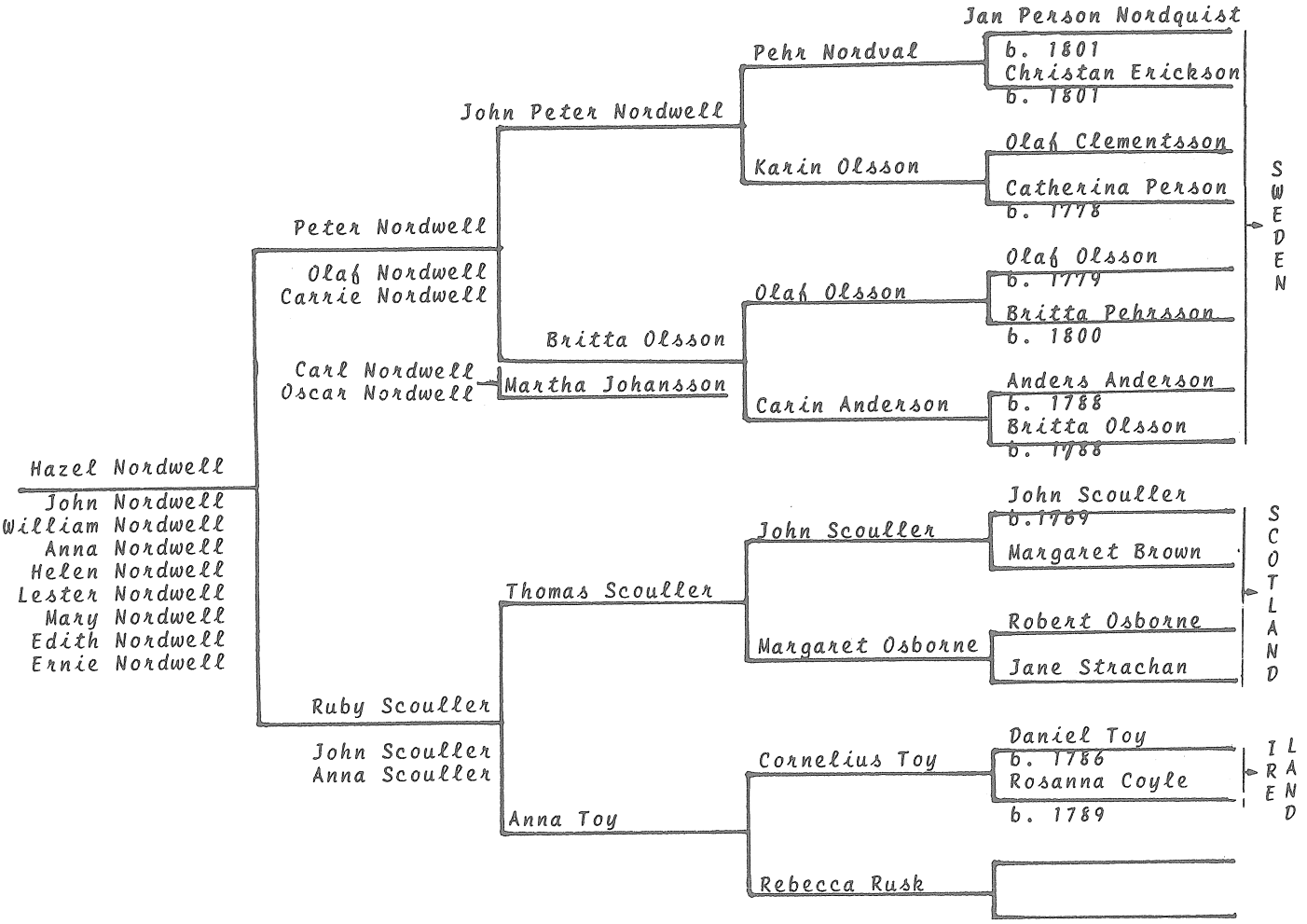
> "The family was of especial importance in the new country, for it was the one social structure that provided stability. It antedated the coming of government, law and order, schools and churches. When children were orphaned due to disease, accident, or Indian depredations, or left destitute by desertion, it was not all unusual for a neighboring family to take them in and raise them with their own. The land was bountiful, and another mouth or even several more to feed constituted no great problem, while extra hands at the harvest and more helpmates in the kitchen just about compensated for the expense.
>
> Generalizations are very questionable in such cases as this, but the best description of the new country family is that it was an easy going, pleasant unit, a haven of love and companionship in which the bond of common blood was so deeply understood that the insipid manifestations of affection were seldom seen. This led some observers to describe the American family as cold and unresponsive, a strange social unit in which members would leave for distant places with no more than a stake of the hand, where 'the father of the frontier bride gave her a bed, a lean horse, and some good advice, and having discharged his duty . . . returned to work.' But in fact, wrote Arthur Calhoun, this apparently frigid attitude was 'evidently due . . . to the economic largeness of the new world which made family wealth and backing less significant . . . The abundant opportunities of the new country, the relative ease of getting along, the certainty that the children would be able to find good openings, tended to loosen family attachments . . . The family ceased to be an economic unit; each member could follow a calling to taste.'
>
> In such a family children grew up very quickly. By age four they could carry a bucket and collect the eggs from the nests of the hens in the barn; a little later the boys could harness a horse, yoke up a team of oxen, they learned to plant and weed and harvest, to milk cows and slaughter a few pigs after the first frost, to butcher them, salt them down, and preserve the meat. The handling of gun and axe came with growing up."

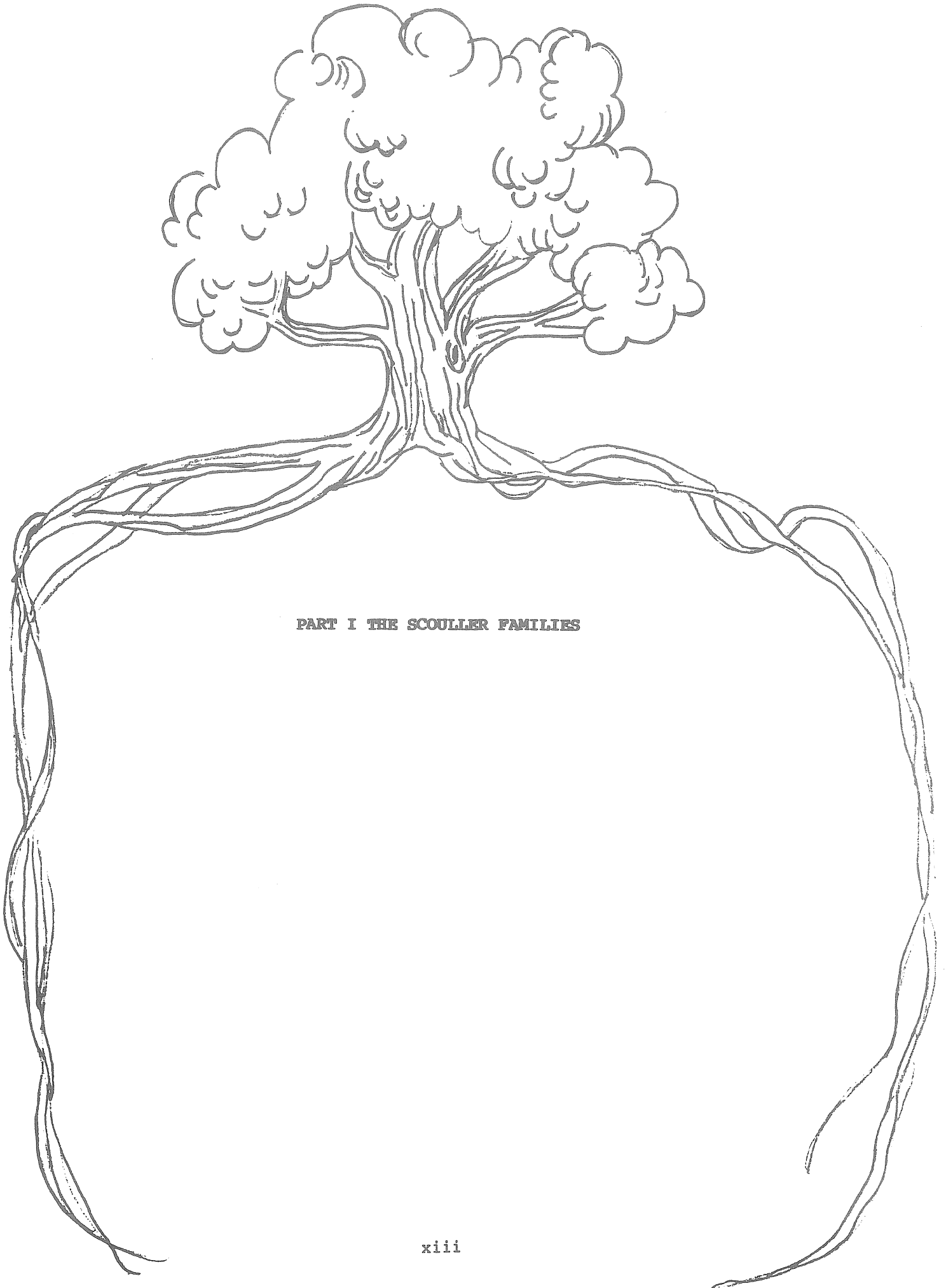
Romanticizing the past is fun but the fact is that into the 1900's our families, even those fairly well off, lived an austere life. At least judging from todays standards. They had few, if any, of our material conveniences. On the other hand they did not suffer from the lack of things they could not envision.

As you read the pages ahead, try if you will, to put your feet into the shoes of your grandparents, great grandparents, aunts or uncles. As you slip on the shoes keep in mind that society today is not what the early Nordwells and Scoullers experienced. Until the 1930's food was largely a do-it-yourself family affair, as was medicine and doctoring, except for the most serious illnesses.

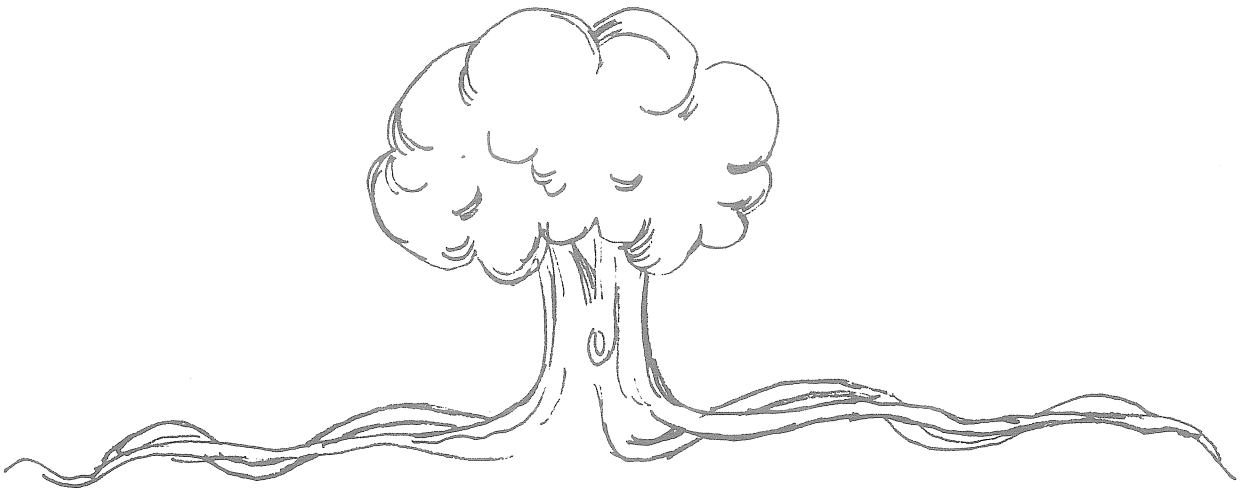
Most of our ancestors farmed and lived, at least from our perspective, in isolated rural areas. Eking out an existence without modern mechanization required hard work and 12 hours a day. Vacations, let alone a couple of days off, were far and few between. Until the advent of the automobile, traveling more than 5 miles from home was a big event. Even with an automobile, trips to town were weekly at best. Entertainment was not at the push of a stereo or television button. Light came only from the sun or by homemade candle or lantern. Neighbors did not exploit neighbors for profit. If you fell ill or suffered an accident and could not do the seeding, haying or what ever, the neighbors gathered and did the work without compensation. All that was asked in return was themselves to be helped in their turn. News traveled very slowly by word of mouth and letter, and later by weekly newspapers. It wasn't until the 1920's or so that the radio and telephone reached rural populations. We often think of people who have to make their own clothes as poor. Today that would be true but earlier, reality was there were few ready to wear clothes available. What there was was relatively expensive and only the truly well off could afford more than a set of "Sunday best." When a house burned down they did not fight with the insurance company, they grabbed hammer and saw and built a new home. Our early European ancestors view terrain as an obstacle to travel and waterways a convenience. Today, with bulldozers and automobiles the opposite is true.

Our early families were rooted in Scotland, Ireland and Sweden. The abbreviated chart on the following page illustrates how we became family. The family and its many subfamilies are subjects of the charts, words and photos that lie ahead.


Jan Person Nordquist
Pehr Nordval
b. 1801
Christan Erickson
b. 1801
John Peter Nordwell
Olaf Clementsson
Karin Olsson
Catherina Person
b. 1778
SWEDEN
Peter Nordwell
Olaf Nordwell
Carrie Nordwell
Olaf Olsson
b. 1779
Olaf Olsson
Britta Pehrsson
b. 1800
Britta Olsson
Carl Nordwell
Oscar Nordwell
Martha Johansson
Anders Anderson
b. 1788
Carin Anderson
Britta Olsson
b. 1788
Hazel Nordwell
John Nordwell
William Nordwell
Anna Nordwell
Helen Nordwell
Lester Nordwell
Mary Nordwell
Edith Nordwell
Ernie Nordwell
John Scoulller
b.1769
John Scoulller
Margaret Brown
SCOTLAND
Thomas Scoulller
Robert Osborne
Margaret Osborne
Jane Strachan
Ruby Scoulller
John Scoulller
Anna Scoulller
Daniel Toy
b. 1786
Cornelius Toy
Rosanna Coyle
IRELAND
b. 1789
Anna Toy
Rebecca Rusk



PART I THE SCOULLER FAMILIES



1

THE SCOULLERS IN SCOTLAND

Joseph Scouller; John Scouller & Margaret Brown;
John Scouller, Margaret Osborn and family

"London John" is our first known Scottish ancestor. According to Merel Hall, a relative in Australia, John Scouller traveled relatively frequently to London . . . a 400 mile journey such as this was so arduous that few people made the trip until the rail line between Glasgow and London was completed in 1848. Those trips earned John the nickname "London John" back home.

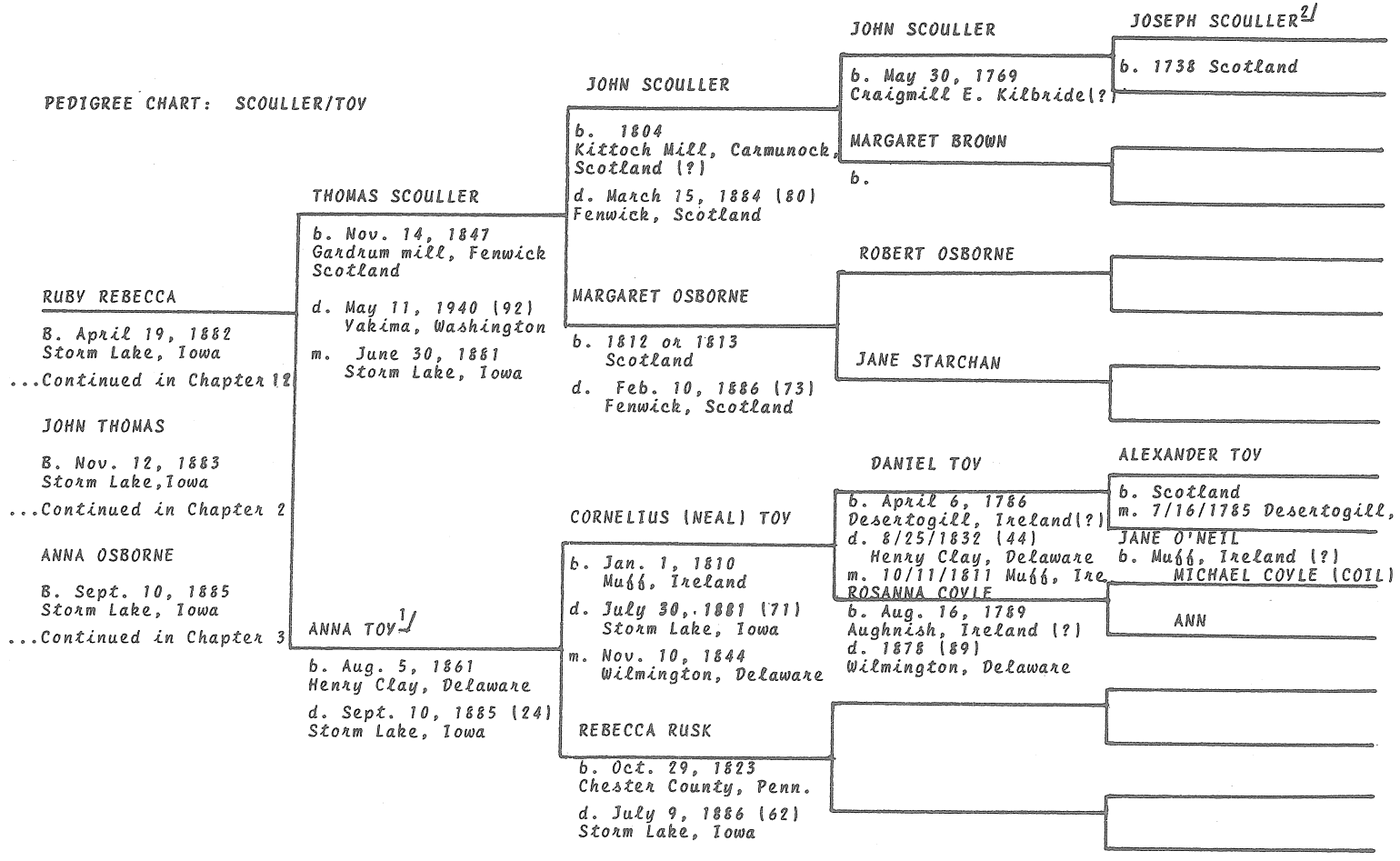
John was born in the early 1700's, which was about the time Scotland reluctantly came under British rule. The Scots had spent 250 years fighting wars to retain their independence but finally gave in. They were given 76 seats in the 260 seat British Parliament.

In 1738 John married Jean Semple. Just how many children they had is not known but Joseph was born in 1738 and a James in 1740. Joseph is in our bloodline and he and his wife (name unknown) operated a grain mill, the Craigmill at East Kilbride just south of Glasgow (see Scotland map). The mill no longer exists. Joseph's family is believed to have had six children including John who was born May 30, 1769 at Craigmill.

This John married Margaret Brown probably in 1802 or 1803. This new generation of Scoullers included a John and at least four other children. The family settled at the Kittoch Mill which is a few miles north of East Kilbridge. The mill itself is gone but the house remains. In 1981 Lt. Col. and Mrs. H. Jordan owned the home. Their address is Busby Road, Carmunnock, G76 9BJ, Scotland. The Kittoch Mill house is the birthplace of John Scouller (1804), the father of Thomas Scouller who lived in Yakima, Washington until his death in 1940.

The new John Scouller also married a Margaret, who was the daughter of Robert Osborne and Jane Strachan. They married in August of 1830 and proceeded to have eleven children; eight sons including a John, and three daughters, including a Margaret. Not long after their marriage they settled at Gardrum Mill a few miles north of the Fenwick Village. John was a farmer and miller at Gardrum for fifty years.

PEDIGREE CHART: SCOULLER/TOY



August, 1985

All dates are month/day/year
#'s in brackets indicate age at death

1/ Anna Toy was Thomas' second wife. On July 25, 1876 he married Isabella Rintoue, who gave birth to their daughter Elizabeth. On May 27, 1877 Isabella died and Elizabeth died on June 11, 1877.

2/ Joseph's parents were John Scoulller and Jean Semple.

SCOULLER

JOHN SCOULLER
B Early 1700's
D
Scotland
"London John"

Married C. 1730

JEAN SEMPLE
B
D
Scotland

Chart information compiled in 1983/1984 by:
Merle Hall of Australia and Elsie (Purviance) Eschback of Yakima, Washington

Joseph
B 1738
D

James
B
D

Joseph lived at Craigmill East Kilbride, Scotland

Margaret
B
D

Ann
B
D

Marion
B
D

John
B 5/30/1769
D

?

?

Margaret Brown
B
D

They lived at Kittoch Mill Carmunock, Scotland

John
B 1804
D 3/15/1884 (80

Joseph

Helen

James

Agnes

Married Aug 1830

Margaret Osborne
B 1812 or 1813
D 2/10/1886 (73)

They lived at Gardrum Mill, Fenwick, Ayrshire [County], Scotland

All children born in Scotland

John
B 1831
D 1867(36)
Audtralia

Robert
B 1832
D 1896 (64)
Australia

David
B 1835
D 1886 (50)

Joseph
B 1846?
D 1856 (10)
Scotland

Jean
B

James
B 1841
D 1909 (68)
Iowa

Alex
B
D
Nebraska

Margaret
B 1845
D 1943 (98)
Scotland

Thomas
B 11/14/1847
D 5/11/1940 (92)
Yakima, Wa

Agnes
B 1850
D 1932 (82)
Yakima, Wa

Walter
B 1-21-1853
D 9-23-1942 (89)
Canada

Anna Osborne
B 9/10/1885 (69)
D 2/21/1954 Yakima

Continued in chapter 3

John Thomas
B 11/12/1883 (79)
D 3/26/1962 Yakima

Continued in chapter 2

Ruby Rebecca (83)
B 4/19/1882 [deen
D 11/21/1965 Aber

Continued in chapter 12

Their children
All born in Storm Lake, Iowa

Anna Toy (24)
B 8/5/1861 Delaware
D 9/10/1885 Iowa

August, 1985

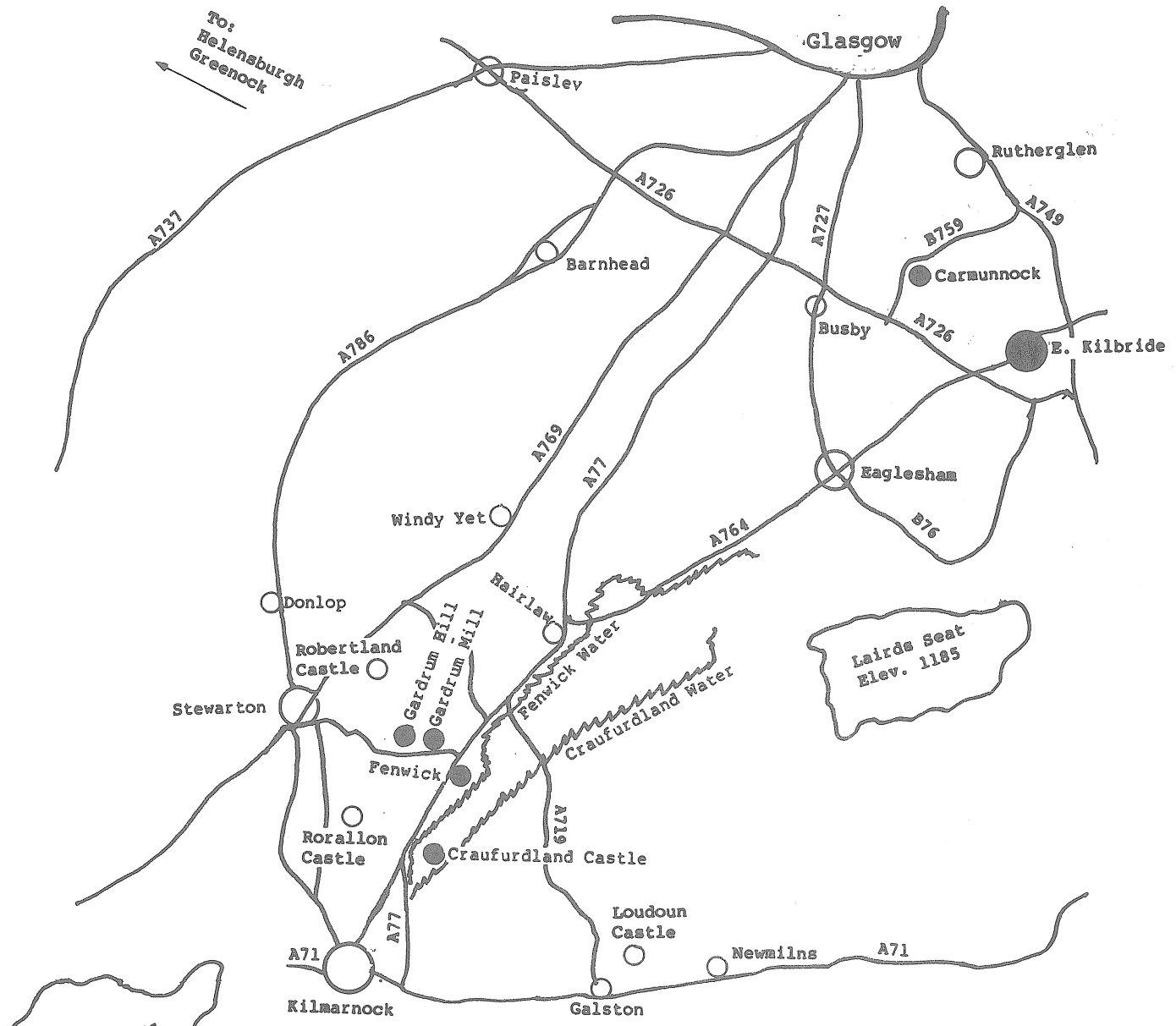
All dates are month/day/year

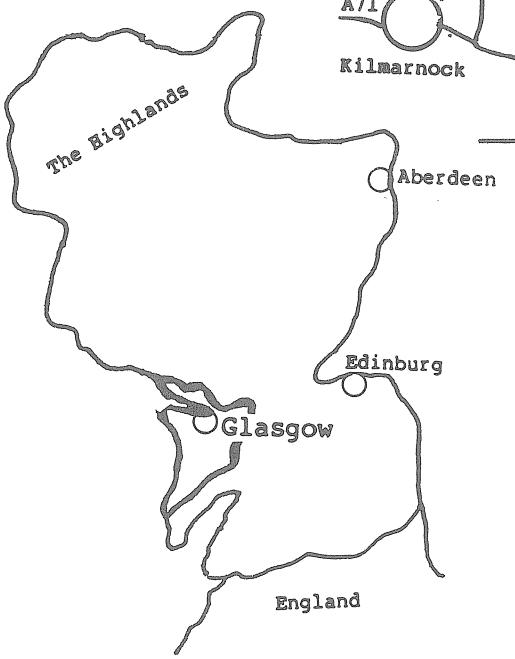
#,s in brackets indicate age at death

SCOTLAND

AYRSHIRE (COUNTY) OF THE STRATCLYDE REGION

Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 4 miles





Of the Scotland places listed on the Scouller family charts, These places were located: East Kilbride just south of Glasgow, home in the 1750's and 1760's? and site of the Craigmill; Carmunnock just south of Glasgow, home in the late 1700's and early 1800's and site of the Kittoch Mill; and Gardrum Mill just north of Fenwick, home from the 1830's into the 1880's. The Crawfundland Castle is just south of Fenwick.

In the early 1800's grain imports, primarily from the U.S. and Australia began flooding European markets, including Scotland. Parliament passed the Corn Laws in 1815 to help stem the tide. By the 1840's there was a strong Anti-Corn movement. In a nation of extreme poverty these activist felt import restrictions brought higher prices and more hardships for the poor. In 1844 seventy-four Ayrshire (Ayr county) farmers including John Scouller, signed a petition aimed at stopping the Anti-Corn Law League. The petition was written up in the Journal of Local Events, Annals of Fenwick. Just why the article is titled: "The Farmers Black-Listed" is unclear. One possibility is that any political dissent was frowned on, even something as simple as petitioning the government to take action.

The Farmers Black-Listed

The following black list contains the names of those who signed a requisition to the Lord Lieutenant, to call a county meeting of agricultural interest, for the purpose of keeping on the present Corn Laws, and to stop, as far as possible, the agitating of the Anti-Corn Law League. The requisition, and the names of those who signed it in this parish, are extracted from an advertisement in "Ayr Observer":

> "To the Right Hon. the Earl of Eglinton and Winton, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Ayr: My Lord, We, the undersigned, consider that it is incumbent on the agriculturists of Ayrshire to adopt measures for the purpose of effectually counteracting the injurious proceeds of the Anti-Corn Law League, and of maintaining that protection to native agriculture, to which our country owes so much of its prosperity and greatness, do hereby request that your Lordship will convene, for an early day, a meeting of owners and occupiers of land, and others, belongings to the County of Ayr, who concur with us in the foregoing sentiments and objects."

James Marchland, Hill
William Wallace, Drumhead
James Young, Hairshaw
George Wallace, Hairshaw Mill
James Craig, Raithburn
John Adams, Lightmoor
John Kerr, Righiel
Hugh Wyllie, Paudhouse
John Schouler, Gardrum Mill

We have thought it proper to give a correct list of the names of the persons who signed this much talked of requisition. It appeared strange to the public that so many men should have signed it, who were professed reformers and dissenters. The tendency of our times appears to be more for self than for public interest. The farmers in particular, of late, have become more affluent, and with their affluence they have lost their independence. A great portion of them will now bow to the will of their landlord whatever that may

be. They are fast becoming soil-bound serfs ready to sacrifice every opinion or principle, of their "Laird" wills it.

We would not include all the farmers, however, in this sweeping charge. There are many noble exceptions. A good number refused to sign this requisition. To the honour of the farmers on the Crawfordland estate, be it recorded that not a single individual would sign it.

Without a doubt the Scoullers were a family of millers. At Gardrum Mill, John was a farmer as well as a miller. They had a grainery, a dairy and cheese factory. Barley and oats were ground into meal, flour and animal feed. The mills were a focal point of the rural neighborhood. The mill operators were generally the more prosperous of the farmers. The Scoullers were no exception as can be seen from the photos. These are quite impressive homes, especially when you consider that as late as the 1920's half of all Scotish families lived in one or two room homes. The mill at Gardrum is gone but the huge grinding stone remains and the stone house looks today as it did in the 1850's. The house has a large central area and two wings. Typically these farms included several outbuildings and a house or two for employees.



Kittock Mill home



Gardrum Mill house . . . painting commissioned by Robert Scoulller before he left for Australia in the 1850's

A Castle Mystery!

A castle occassionally poped up in conversations about the Scoullers. Some talked of an old castle & buried treasure; others heard they may have lived at a castle.



This photo of Thomas Scoullers has been identified as the Crawfurdland Castle, which dates back to the 1200's, is just south of Fenwick (see map). Mrs. Houison-Crawfurd, the current owner, responded to my inquiry this way: "Have looked through what few records we have but can find no mention of either the name Scoular or Osborne as tenant, servants or having been paid to do work here. There has never been, as far as I know, a mill or cheese factory on the estate." What, if any, importance that this or another castle was to the family remains a mystery!

The Scoullers witnessed, and undoubtedly were affected by, the coming of the Industrial revolution. It was in full gear in the early 1800's and touched everyones lives including the farmer. Bluementhal and Ozer in their book Coming to America -- Immigrants from the British Isles described the transition this way:

> "Until the 1800's the farmer had worked the land in much the same way as their ancestors in the Middle Ages. Farmers cultivated strips of land scattered among various open fields, rather than single, enclosed plots. They used ancient tools, the spade, hoe, sickle, and wooden plow. Each rural family had the right to graze its livestock on common pastures and to gather firewood from common land. The agricultural system was inefficient, but it provided adequate, if crude, livelihood.

This began to change toward the end of the eighteenth century. Some larger landowners started to experiment with advanced methods of farming and animal husbandry. New inventions, like the horse-drawn drill seeder, could far outstrip a farmer sowing seed by hand. Landowners rotated crops and used fertilizers to increase the harvests. They attempted to improve their livestock by selective breeding.

This kind of agriculture required using land in a way that was at odds with the old system. At the urging of the progressive and generally prosperous landowners, Parliament enacted further enclosure laws, which broke up the open-field system. Land commissions assigned farmers plots of land, which the new owners then enclosed by fences or hedges. Sheep owners took much of the land for pasture. Small farmers often ended up with less land than before, and some, who could not produce proof of their rights to the fields they had been working, got no land at all. The poorest villagers, who had relied on grazing their small stock on the commons, now had no pasture. And as the land became more productive with new machines and methods, fewer laborers were needed to work it.

Industry, too, was transformed. Until the late 1700's most industries were 'cottage industries.' Spinners, weavers, potters, metal workers, and other artisans generally worked in their homes or in small village shops. But then new inventions changed all that. The spinning jenny and the power loom gave birth to the textile mill.

This was the beginning of the industrial revolution. It produced more food for an expanding population; greater work opportunities for the laboring class and provided a better income for some than they had made at the home loom or forge. But it rang the death knell for the independent artisan. Workers were now dependent on industrialist for their livelihood and industrialist made the most of this dependence by exploiting their laborers. Fourteen- to sixteen- hour workdays were common for adults and children."

The Fenwick area is still agricultural and is well known of cheesemaking. In earlier times Devon Cattle and dairy farming were main industries along with sheep and grain. Fenwick, itself, was and is still noted for its many looms and fine weavers. Some of the local color and the bluntness of their everyday life are revealed in their printed word. Again from the Annals of Fenwick (1844):

"March 1st: Mary Wilson, widow of the late Alexander Gordon, died. There was nothing very particular in Mary's life or character. She lived to the age of 88 years, and saw her great-grandchildren. The most part of her life was spent in poverty, besides having great family calamities to struggle with. She had a way of prefacing everything she said with, 'By my faith!' For instance, she would say: 'By my faith, the only comfort a poor body has is to get a drap warm kale (broth) on a sabbath day.'

Her husband was a stout, little, old Highlandman. He was for many years a bowlman and egg cadger in his parish.

February 13th: The Fenwick Curling Club beat the Waterside Curlers by upwards of seventy shots.

At the Crawfordland ploughing match, held on the 19th, John Stevenson, servant with Andrew Gemmill, Aikenhead, took the 1st prize. David Reed, servant with Matthew Gemmill, Wyllieland, the 2nd. William Barr, Marchbank, 3rd, and Alex Taylor, Burnhead, 4th.

Janet Cameron gave birth to a son, February 17th. The reputed father is Walter Osborne, servant in Gardrum Mill. The young man, however, denies that it is his, though nobody believes him."

Could it be that Walter Osborne was a relative of Margaret Osborne Scoulller?

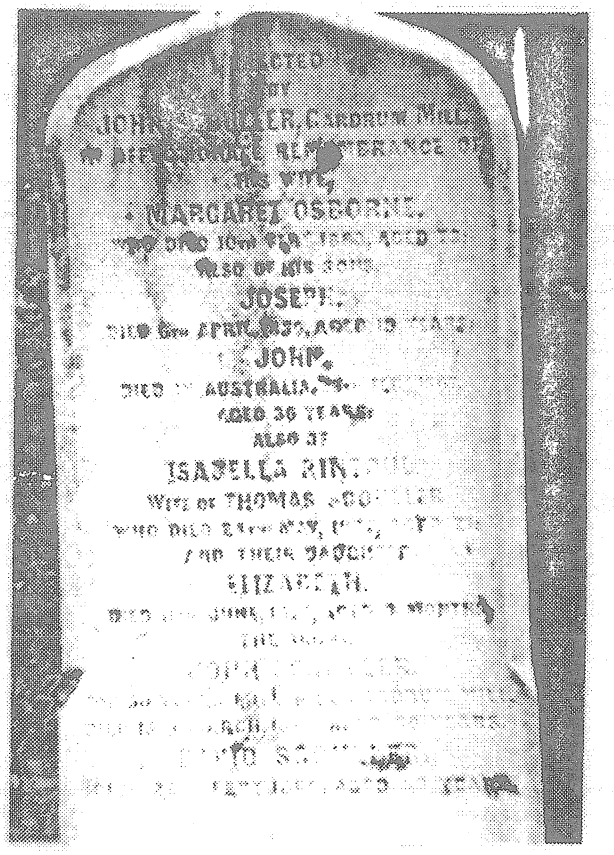
John and Margaret apparently spent their adult life at Gardrum Mill. John was last listed in the Kilmarnock directory as a miller at Gardrum Mill in 1879. Earlier he had been listed as a farmer and miller. He died in 1884 at age 80, a year after Margaret died at age 73. Walter, their youngest child took over the mill operation. He was listed as a miller at Gardrum Mill in the 1882 directory and was last listed in the 1884-5 directory. In 1886 Walter and his family left for Canada. With the departure, mill operation apparently ceased. In the 1887-8 directory the Gardrum Mill was listed under Farms with R. Forrest as occupant. The current resident is Mrs. Farguhar whose husband's family bought the property 60 years ago.

In Scotland, social and religious life was important and closely tied to the state controlled Presbyterian Church. The latter half of the 1800's came to be known as the Victorian Age. Margaret Black, John and Margaret Scoulller's 8th child, had reminisced about her life to her granddaughter Helen Cossar. Mrs. Black died in Scotland in 1943 at age 98. Her thoughts give an impression of the mores of the time and of women's life during the era. Margaret enjoyed "The Peoples Friend" as they were ". . . nice clean stories." In the 1930's she was worried about her granddaughters reading about divorces in "Good HouseKeeping" magazines. Her comment on the love affair of The Prince of Wales and Mrs. Swipsom was; "If only she had been a decent widow." Of her marriage, she said it was slavery. Her husband unfortunately was a typical dominating spouse of the Victorian Age.

The Church was important. The early Scoullers likely thought of themselves more as a resident of Fenwick Parish than Ayrshire. The Fenwick Parish church dates back to 1643 but is in excellent condition today. Several Scoulller headstones are in the churchyard. A stone, erected by John to memorialize the passing of several members of the family, stands against the stone fence facing the church. The stone reads:

Erected by
John Scoulller, Gardrum Mill
in Affectionate Remembrance of
my wife
Margaret Osborne
who died 10th Feb. 1886, Aged 73
Also of his sons
Joseph
Died 6th April 1856, aged 10 years
John
Died in Australia, 23rd Feb. 1867, age 36

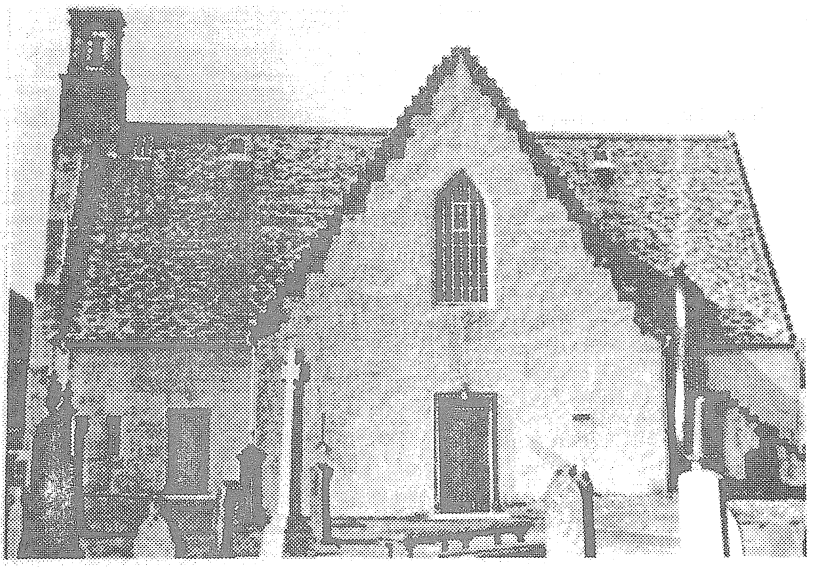
Also of
Isabella Rintoul
wife of Thomas Scoulller
who died 24th May 1877, Aged 21
and their daughter
Elizabeth
Died 11th June, 1877, Aged 3 months
The Above
John Scoulller
For 50 years Miller in Gardrum Mill
Died 15th March 1884, Aged 80 years
David Scoulller
Died 22nd Feb 1866, Aged 50 years



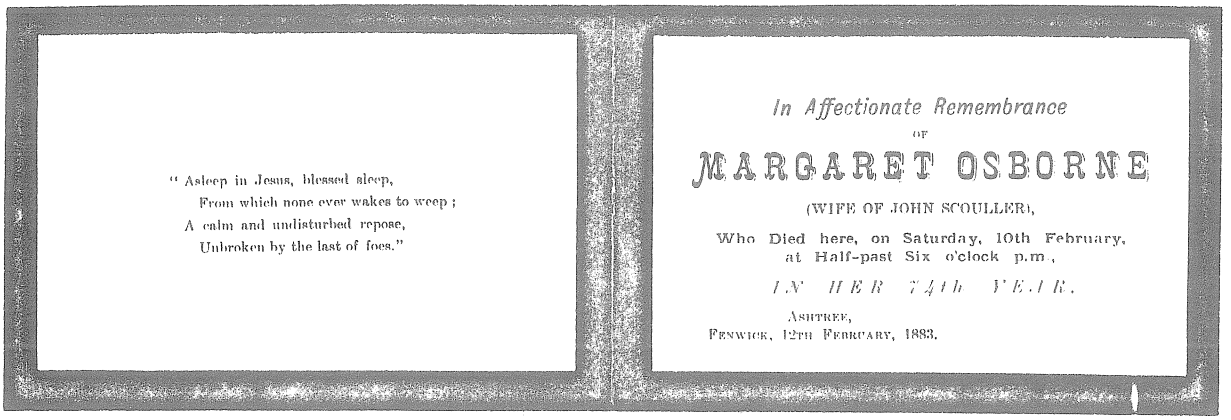
There are also separate stones for Joseph, John (age 19) and Elizabeth. Other stones mark the passing of John's brother James and sister, Agnes (Boyd?).



John & Margaret Scoulller of Gardrum Mill, Scotland, 1870's or early 1880's



Fenwick Church . . . Scoulller stone at lower right



" Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep,
From which none ever wakes to weep;
A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes."

In Affectionate Remembrance
OF
MARGARET OSBORNE
(WIFE OF JOHN SCOULLER),
Who Died here, on Saturday, 10th February,
at Half-past Six o'clock p.m.,
IN HER 74th YEAR.
ASHTREE,
FENWICK, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1883.

Thomas Scouller who was the 9th child of John and Margaret, was born in 1847. His early years were likely spent with his brothers and sisters at home helping in the mill and the farm. Church took up most of his Sundays and his schooling at best was for 6 to 8 years. The State Church ran the schools and tried to have one in every parish! Long after Thomas was out of school, 1872, schooling was transferred to an elected school board. The board soon instituted compulsory attendance.

During his 20's, Thomas moved a short distance to Gardrum Hill where he started his own farm (see Scotland Map). He is also thought to have joined the Scottish Mounties, a local volunteer militia.

On July 24, 1876 Thomas, now 29, married Isabella Rintoul who was 20. A short time later they had a daughter, Elizabeth.

Isabella brought with her a journal that had been in the Rintoul family since 1827. Thomas kept the journal up from 1876 to 1885, making entries of the more important events of his life. (Today the journal is with Hazel Nordwell Balis' son Hugh and Merline Mason in Centralia, Washington.) A year after their marriage Thomas wrote of the tragedies that struck his family:

An 1877 entry

> My wife Isabella Rintoul died on the 27th day of May at Mill Hill Corsock Kirkcubrightshire at her Uncles Wm. Spiere from servere bronchitis on the lungs. She has been ailing the most of the spring from cold and broke out in a sore breast which had to be lanced but the lungs were sore affected. I took her away to her Uncles for the change of air but she never rallied and died in about four weeks after trusting in Jesus Christ her Redeemer.

Another 1877 entry

> My daughter Elizabeth died on the 11th day of June from the same trouble her mother had bronchitis. She took a little sick about three weeks before she died but nothing serious until the last week when she suffered a great deal and died at a quarter from nine evening just two weeks and one day after her mother was intered in the same grave in Fenwick Churchyard.

That Thomas Scoullar residing in this Parish and Isabella Rintoul residing in the Parish of Stewarton have been three times, Proclaimed in the Parish Church, here, in order to Marriage, and no objections offered, is attested at Fenwick, this, the twenty-fourth day of July Eighteen Hundred and Seventy five years, by

William M'Kain Session Clerk.

EXTRACT ENTRY OF BIRTH, under the 37th Sect. of 17 and 18 Vict. Cap. 80.

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
	Elizabeth Scoullar	1876 September twenty eight 6h. 30m. P.M. Gardrum Hill	F	Thomas Scoullar Farmer Isabella Scoullar M.S. Rintoul 1876 July 26th Stewarton	(Signed) Thomas Scoullar (Father)	1876. October 6th At Fenwick (Signed) John Gemmill Registrar.

Extracted from the Register Book of Births, for the Parish of Fenwick, in the County of Ayr, this 6th day of October 1876. John Gemmill Registrar.

Going to the New World

By the mid-1850's the new world wasn't so new but it certainly had appeal. At least six of the Scouller children left Scotland. The specific reason why they chose to leave is not known but some of the underlying forces that likely played a part have been mentioned -- a resentment of being under British rule, land reforms, and rapidly changing economic conditions in agriculture. On top of these was a population boom. In 1755 there were 1.2 million people in Scotland and by 1801 there were 1.6 million. And even with nearly a million emigrating the population exploded to 4.8 million by 1920. This situation was similar to that in Sweden. There wasn't enough good farm land to pass down in a large family. The industrial revolution was creating non-farm jobs but the promise of the new world was more appealing to farmers than industrial wages and living in large, dirty cities. Its probably safe to say that most would not have left if they felt they could have prospered at home.

John, the oldest son, was the first to leave. The new world for him was Australia. John apparently married and had a daughter before he died in 1867 at age 36.

Robert was the next to go, leaving in 1853 at age 21, he followed his brother John to Australia. Soon after arriving he and John are believed to have been working in the prosperous Ballarst goldfields. Robert sent a small nugget home to his mother. Margaret had it put into a ring setting along with some rubies and peridots. The ring has been passed down four generations and is currently with Merel Hall of Bendigo, Australia.

John and Robert started a flour mill in Birregurra, a small town in the province of Victoria. After a time they sold the mill and Robert moved to a farm. He married Margaret and they proceeded to have several children. As a result we now have a multitude of Australian relatives.

James went to Davenport as well as Storm Lake, Iowa where he appears to have gotten into farming. County records from the late 1880's show that Alex and his partners bought several lots in town. He is thought to have a wooden leg and have died before he was 50. Walter, his wife Allison Shaw and their five children went to Manitoba Canada in 1886. They farmed for forty years near Springfield and had six more children. Allison died in 1929 and Walter at Hazelridge in 1942. Thomas came to America in 1880 and was later joined by his sister, Agnes.

Thomas Scoulller's photos from Scotland



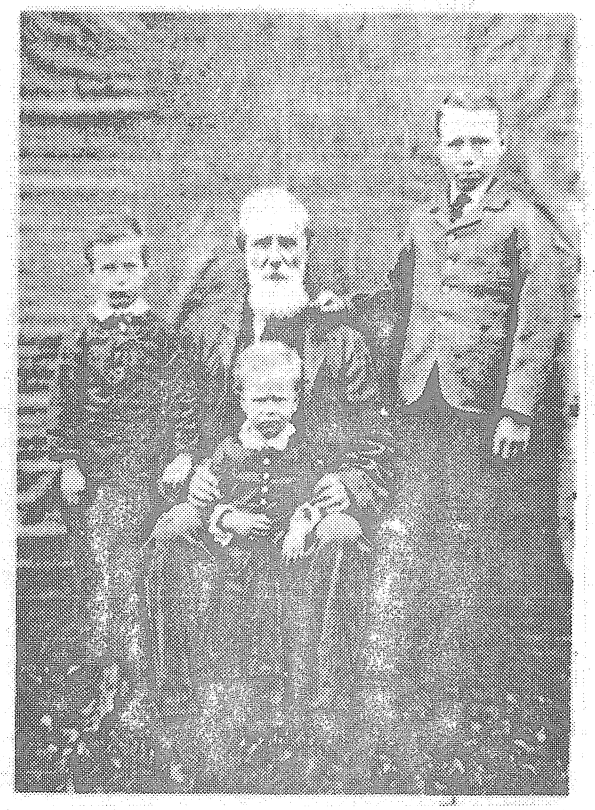
Young Agnes Scoulller in Scotland



Walter Scoulller, youngest brother of Thomas



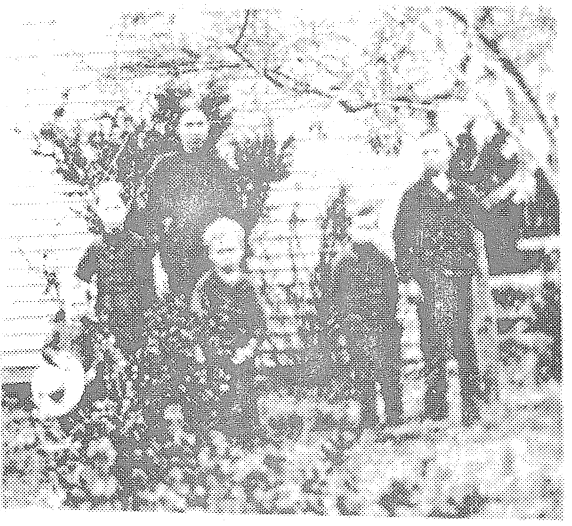
Mother, John, Annie, Robert,
Maggie & Agnes



Father, Thomas, David & Walter

Unknown . . . but looks like some of the same
people in those photos







Mother Sachen, Geelong Photo Studio, 28 May 1884. (Thomas Scouller's grandmother??)



Unknown



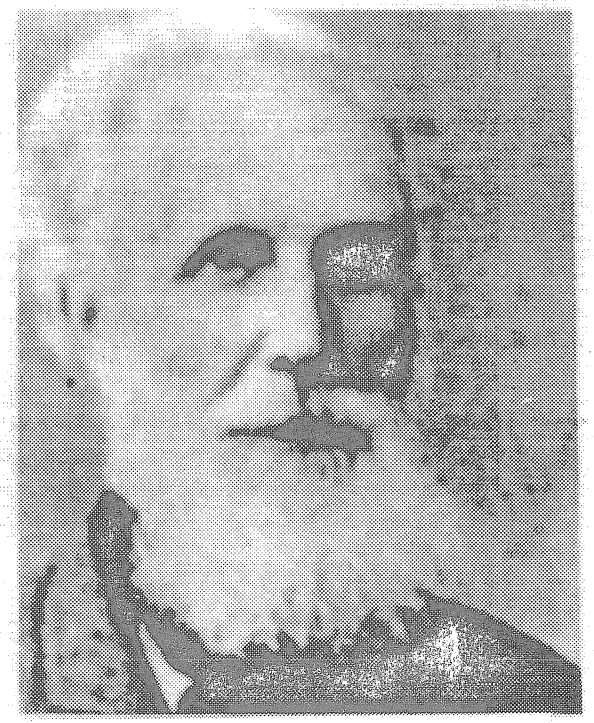
Unknown . . . taken from a tin plate



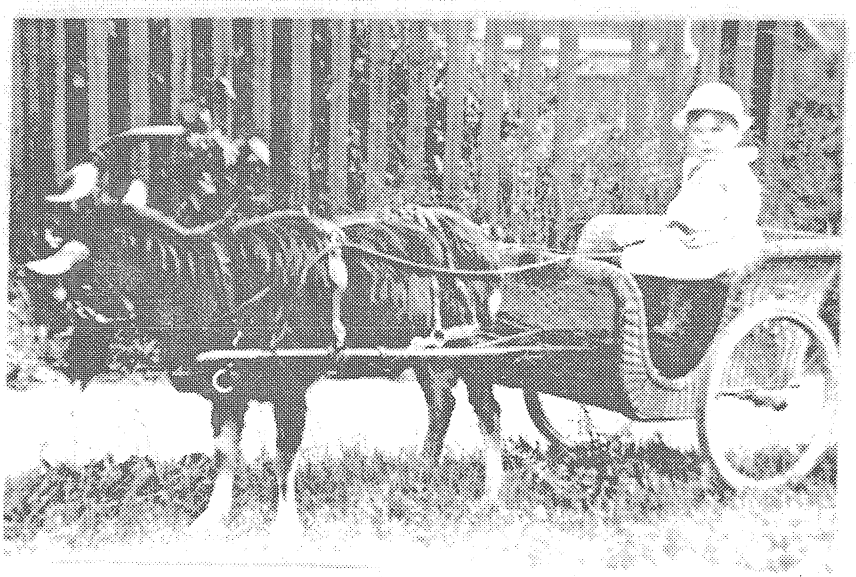
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Unknown: By Strathvee, Perth



Robert Scoulller, a brother of Thomas



Walter Scoulller ??



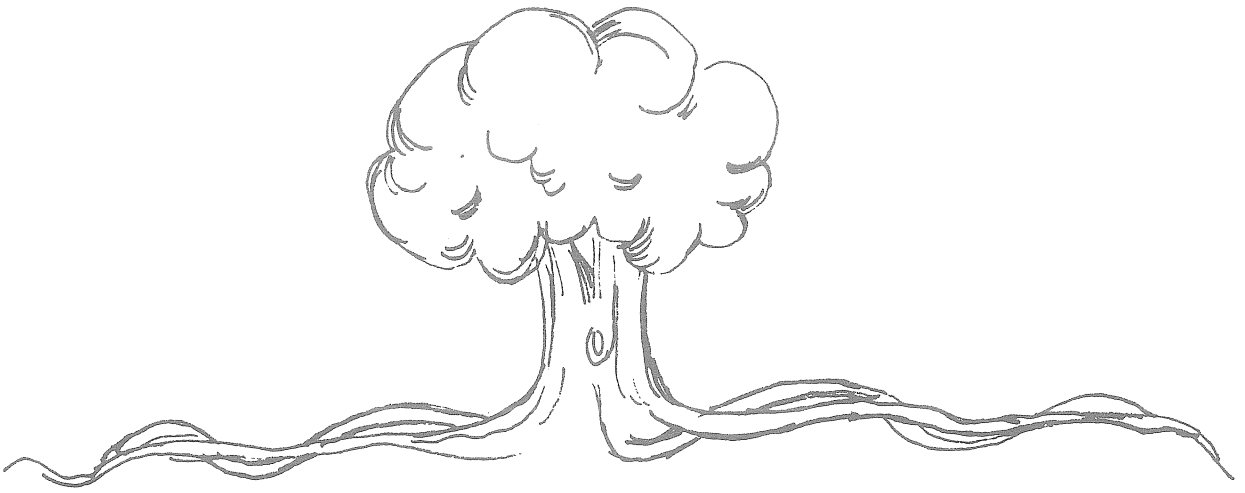
Unknown - Photo by Stourts of Glasgow and Helensburgh



Gardrum Mill house today with old mill grind stone in foreground

NOTES

NOTES



2

THOMAS SCOULLER IN THE U.S.A.
Thomas Scouller; Agnes Scouller;
The John Scouller family--Thomas, John Daniel,
Lilly, Ernest, Rose

"Sailed from Glasgow May 13, 1880 and came to Storm Lake Buena Vista County Iowa in January 1881." (Thomas Scouller journal entry)

Thomas was 33 at the time, and as we'll see later, apparently came to buy land and farm. By the 1880's steamships were used almost exclusively for crossing the Atlantic so Thomas was probably on U.S. soil by May 23rd or 25th. Just where he spent the next seven months is not known. Some of the time was likely spent with his brothers Alex and James in the midwest. Perhaps he traveled around hunting for the "right" place to settle.

He chose a farm in Buena Vista County not far from the town of Storm Lake in northwestern Iowa. Buena Vista was Sioux Indian territory and it wasn't until the early 1850's that white settlers came to the area in strength. Storm Lake, the town, is laid out on the north shore of the lake which is 5 miles long and 2 miles wide and is an outlet to the Boyer River.

When Thomas came to America he had his language in his favor. English had been the official language since the British take over of Scotland. So he was able to conduct his affairs and get about his new country better than his non-English speaking counterparts.

Just where he landed is unclear. Apparently it wasn't far from his brother James and an Irish Catholic family named Toy. They all lived 7 to 8 miles northeast of Storm Lake in the Grant Township (see Iowa map). County records show that on February 28, 1883 James transferred a piece of property in Section 17 of the Grant Township to J & I Fench.

Wherever, it wasn't long before he was courting Anna Toy, the daughter of Neal and Rebecca Toy. The religious difference and perhaps Thomas' style caused some concerns with Anna's parents. One of Neal's grandchildren put the situation into these words: "Anna fell in love with this Scouller who was a Protestant. He was peculiar, my father said, and guess the family didn't care

Continued from Chapter 1

JOHN THOMAS SCOULLER
b. Nov. 12, 1883 Storm Lake, Iowa
d. March 26, 1962 (78) Yakima, Wa.

Married
Nov. 10, 1908
Yakima, Wa.

Thomas V.
b. 9/16/1909 Yakima
d.

John Daniel (Dan)*
b. 1/11/1915 Yakima
d. 9/8/1955 (40)
Yakima, Wa.

Lilly Mae
b. 6/1/1916 Yakima
d.

11/10/35 Yakima

Ester E. Eastly
b. 5/15/1914
Elsmere, Nebraska
d.

Marjorie Ward
b.
d.

David Jacob
b. 7/25/1916
Shelby, Montana
d.

Evelyn Rose
b. 1/ 6/1933
d.

Thomas D.
b. 4/28/1934
d.

Barbara *
b.
d.

Daniel Lee*
b.
d.

Nancy*
b.
d.

David
b. 5/29/1936
Yakima, Wa.
d.

Richard Nash
b.
d.

Dean Pearson
b.
d.

Pat Hatcher
b.
d.

Eileen Lebram
b.
d.

Bonnie McCloud
b.
d.

Joyce Demoss
b. 11/18/40
Wapato
d.

Robert
b. 1951
d. 9/5/82(30)

Donald
b. 11/16/52

Falina
b. 4/26/54

James
4/29/55

Jerry
9/15/58

Glen
6/7/59

Tom
b. 1950
d. 1955

Trina
b. 9/14/56

Timothy
b. 1/29/58

Tammy
b. 7/3/63

Steven
b. 8/12/69

Gregory
b. 5/19/72

Jonathan
b. 1/28/62

Lucinda
b. 5/17/64

August, 1985

All dates are month/day/year

#'s in bracket indicate age at death.

* Unable to contact John Daniel's former wife who is now Mrs. Soden, of Naches, Wa.

NELLIE LUSBY
b. October 27, 1891
d. February 21, 1984 (92) Yakima, Wa.

Ernest Arthur
b. 7/8/1918
Yakima, Wa.
d.

Rose L.
b. 10/22/1921
Yakima, Wa.
d.

m. 1939 Yakima m. 6/21/60

Marjorie Stewart
b.

Lillian Strauss
b. Des Moines, Wa.

Joseph Guthrie
b. 12/27/1919

Leon
b. 4/15/40
Yakima, Wa.
d.

Patricia
b. 3/6/43
S. Seattle
d.

James
b. 4/4/45
S. Seattle
d.

Sharon
b. 12/30/50
Auburn
d.

Nellie
b. 5/27/41
Seattle
d.

John
b. 11/24/43
Gig Harbor
d.

Benjamin
b. 10/20/45
Sunnyside
d.

m 1963

Mary Beth Kline
b.
d.

m 12/31/64

Tom Raygor
b.
d.

m 3/4/72

Terry Witter
b.
d.

Jimmy Degeh
b. Los Angeles, Calif.
d.

Sylvia
b.
d.

Rosa
b.
d.

Dion
b. 6/30/64

Corinna
b. 8/11/65

Matthew
b. 12/29/72

April
b. 4/4/80

Chris
b. 9/12/65

Travis
b. 4/30/76

Mark
b. 12/20/78
d. 10/17/79
(10 m)

Joseph
b. 5/20/79

Tracy
b.

Jimmy
b.

Johnny
b.

Bianca
b.

Shane
b.

Mike
b.

Raquel
b.

Robert
b.

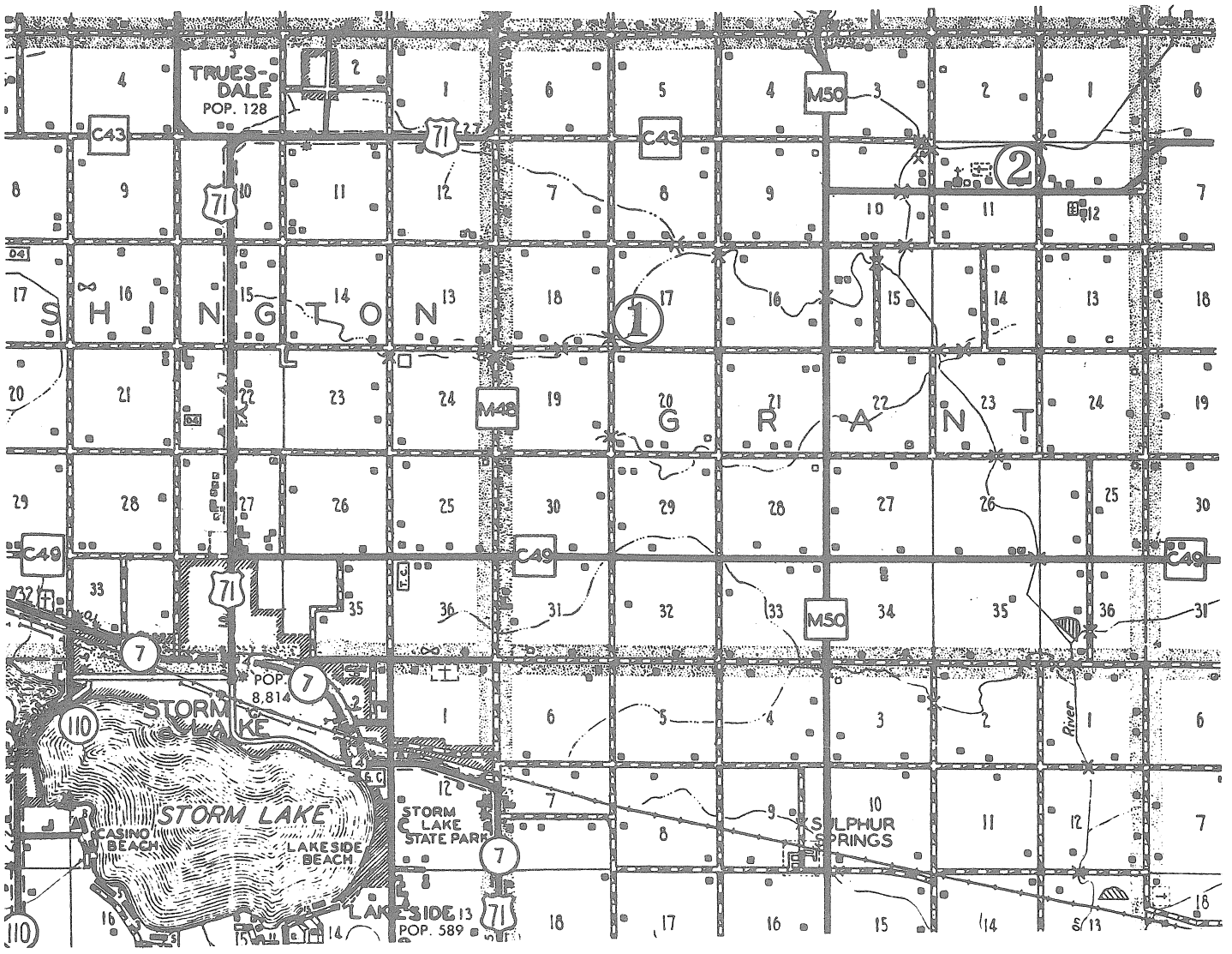
Rose
b.

Joseph Ben
b.

Bonny
b.

STORM LAKE, IOWA

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



(1) **Thomas Scouller and his second wife, Anna Toy,** farmed in Section 17 of the Grant Township, 1881 to 1890. The specific location is yet to be identified. Birthplace of Ruby, John, and Anna Scouller. Thomas's wife Anna died as a result of the birth of daughter Anna. Anna's parents, Neal (Cornelius) and Rebecca Toy, farmed in the immediate area also.

(2) In Sections 11 and 12 there is a cemetary. Could some of our relatives be buried at one of these?

Directions: The county map unfortunately does not identify county roads by name or #. So to find Section 17, ask locally or try this . . . start at the junction of Highways 71 and 7 north of the lake. Go north on 71 for 3 miles, turn right and go 3½ miles. That should take you to the lower left corner of Section 17.

too much about him but anyway the Priest began to tell my grandfather what he could do, and my grandfather told the priest what he could do, so that is when our branch the Toy family were no longer Catholic". All this aside Thomas and Anna were married June 30, 1881 in Storm Lake. A month later Anna's father Neal (Cornelius) died on July 30th at age 71.



MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

This Certifies that on the Thirtieth day of June A D 1881, at Storm Lake in Buena Vista County, Iowa, according to law, and by authority, I duly

Joined in Marriage,

Thomas Scoullar AND Anna Toy

Given under my hand the 30th day of June 1881

Joshua Cook, Pastor Minister

Journal Steam Printing House, Sioux City.



Young Anna Toy



Anna Toy Scoullar holding daughter Ruby. Iowa 1882. Taken from a tin plate

Again, just where Thomas and Anna spent their first couple of years is unclear but county records shows that on December 8, 1882 Thomas Scouller transferred property in Section 17 to J & I Fench and that on February 10, 1883 James F. Toy transferred property in Section 17 to Thomas and Anna Scouller.

Anna and Thomas soon started their family, only to have tragedy strike again. Thomas' journal entries recorded the events:

"Children Born

Rebecca was born on the evening of Wednesday at a quarter to twelve o'clock 19th April 1882.

Rebecca was baptized hear, Storm Lake, on the 2nd day of Aug. 1883 by the Rev. Langfit of the Presbyterian Church Storm Lake Iowa.

John was born on the 12th of November at a quarter before ten forenoon 1883 Storm Lake Iowa.

Anna Toy my wife, died on the 10th day of September Thursday after giving birth to a daughter which was born at 7 o'clock morning (wife died at 12 noon, age 24 years). Storm Lake Iowa. (1885)

My daughter Anna Osborne was baptized at Sulfur Springs by the Rev. Mr. Darley on the 1st day of Nov. 1885, her Grandmother being present, Storm Lake Iowa.

My son John Thomas was baptized at Sulphur Springs by the Rev. Mr. Darley on the 1st day of November 1885."

The new child was named in honor of her mother who lost her life from a postpartum hemmorrhage caused by the birth. Anna's mother, Rebecca Toy, came to help Thomas with his children. She soon became ill and wasn't able to keep up with the youngsters. After nearly a years illness she passed away on July 9, 1886 at age 62.

At Thomas' urging his youngest sister, Agnes came from Scotland to help. She arrived in 1886 or 1887 and took over the household chores while Thomas concentrated on farming. Agnes kept a notebook where she occasionally expressed her feelings and those of the family in a poem. Agnes liked the children and Ruby Rebecca was her little helper:

An 1888 poem

Rebecca is a smart wee girl only six years old
And she can wash the dishes up and do what she is told.
She can the potatoes also pare and sweep the floor out too.
And she can wipe the table clean when Aunt has something else to do.
Then she can walk unto the school a mile or more each day
And she unto her teacher her lessons always say.

Farm life in early America was hard. Hard on the back and sometimes hard on the spirit. For women it meant constant toil and often isolation and loneliness. For the men it was hard work and more hard work. For Agnes dreams of independence and prosperity turned to loneliness.

An 1890 poem

Three years ago my native land, I left to go abroad;
To earn a living with my hands still trusting in my God.
He has watched o'er me all my days and shielded me from harm
He still doth my foot steps guide even in foreign land.
At first I thought when I left home to come across the sea
That it an easy thing would be to gain an independency.
But now I know it is not so; for these three years have been
The hardest years of all my life, and no money to be seen.
I have been homesick many a time; and sick at heart as well;
But how I longed to go back home to Scotland for to dwell.
Land of my birth I love thee now as I never did before
I hope to see thee once again and stand upon thy shore.

For Thomas and reportedly for many other new Americans the dreams that seemed so close when they arrived, faded.

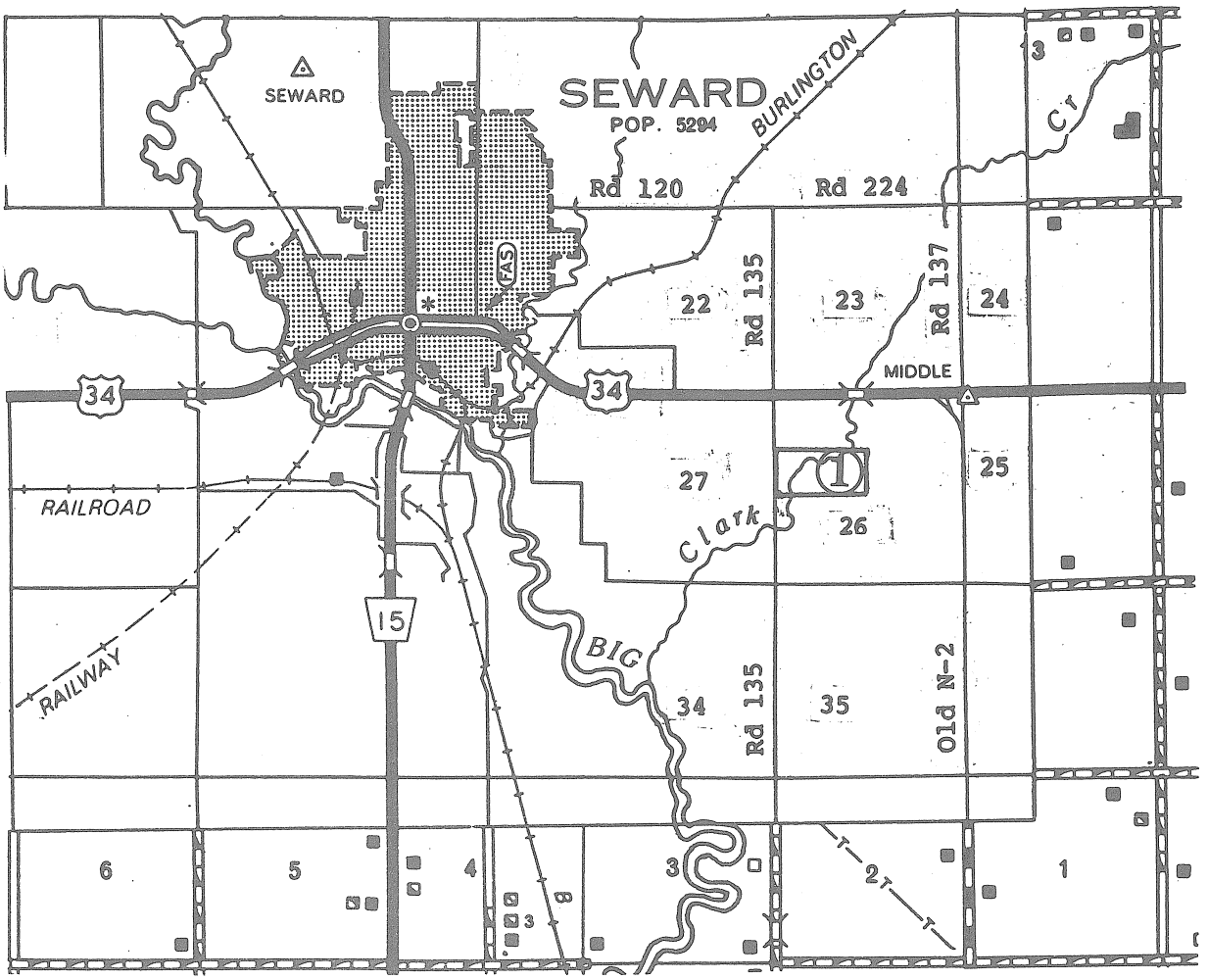
A 1890 poem:

Thomas Scouller a Scotchman came to America to buy some land.
The first farm he bought was at Storm Lake
but he soon found out he had made a mistake.
The winters were cold, and the summers were hot.
The money was scarce and hard to be got.
The work was hard and help there was none.
It was work work work till the sun went down.
So for some years he wanted away so he rented his farm without delay.
He started off his brother to see intending to go on to Wash. Territory.
He came to Seward where his brother dwells
with his children three all safe and well.
He found it to be such a pretty town that he
made up his mind to settle down.
He bought a farm from Mr. Wright;
with house and barn both good and tight.
It is two miles from the Church door; we hope to get to Church once more.

After nine years in Iowa and another two in Seward, Nebraska the family, which included their cherished new "mother" Aunt Agnes, was off to the Washington Territory. On December 22, 1892 they boarded a train and rolled into Walla Walla, Washington on Christmas Day. It is not known if they intended to go to Goldendale or decided to after reaching Walla Walla. Whichever, it was January 18, 1893 and onto Goldendale. Klickitat County wasn't settled until the late 1850's after the Indian resistance had been nullified. These conflicts led to the formation of the Yakima Indian Reservation and fishing rights on the Columbia River. The early pioneers were traders, and cattlemen and homesteaders who took advantage of the grass in the valley lowlands. River boats sustained the settlements and provided transportation to Portland and other markets. In 1866 Goldendale had the areas first schoolhouse. In the 1870's orchards and grains became important crops. By the turn of the century roads had been built, the railroad was in operation, and Goldendale boasted of its growing population of 1,000.

SEWARD, NEBRASKA

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile

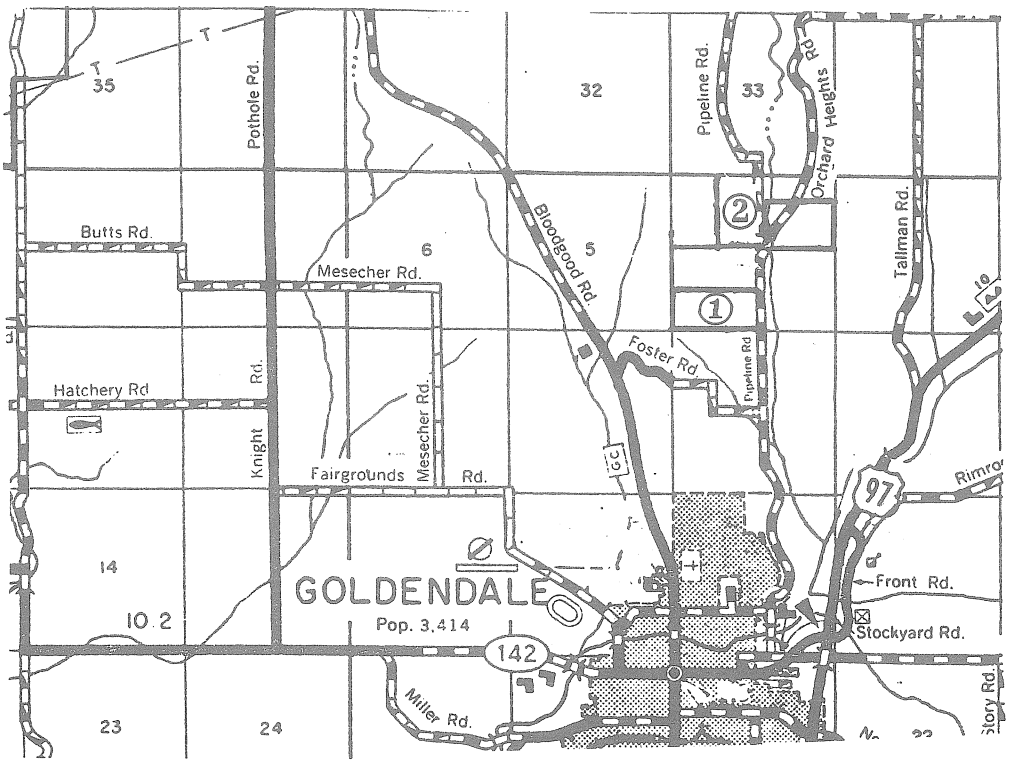


(1) 80 acre farm and home of the **Thomas Scouller** family and his sister Agnes, 1890 to 1892.

Directions: Seward is 25 miles NW of Lincoln. From the Junction of Hwy. 15 and 34 in downtown Seward go east on Hwy 34. Go about 2 miles and turn right onto Road 135, which may be gravel. The north boundary is ¼ mile down Rd. 135 and is ¼ mile wide. Clark Creek meanders through the property.

GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Thomas Scoulller's** 80 acre farm 1893 to 1905; since 1956 the home of **Nick and Olga Nordwell**. . . go ½ mile past Foster Rd. The long driveway off Pipeline Rd. to the house is the south boundary.

② **John P. Nordwell's** 80 acre farm purchased from **Agness Scoulller** in 1903 for $800. . . . west of Pipeline Rd. at the Junction of Pipeline and Orchard Heights roads.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Goldendale map in Chapter 11.



Thomas Scoulller & children: Ruby, John, Anna kneeling in front

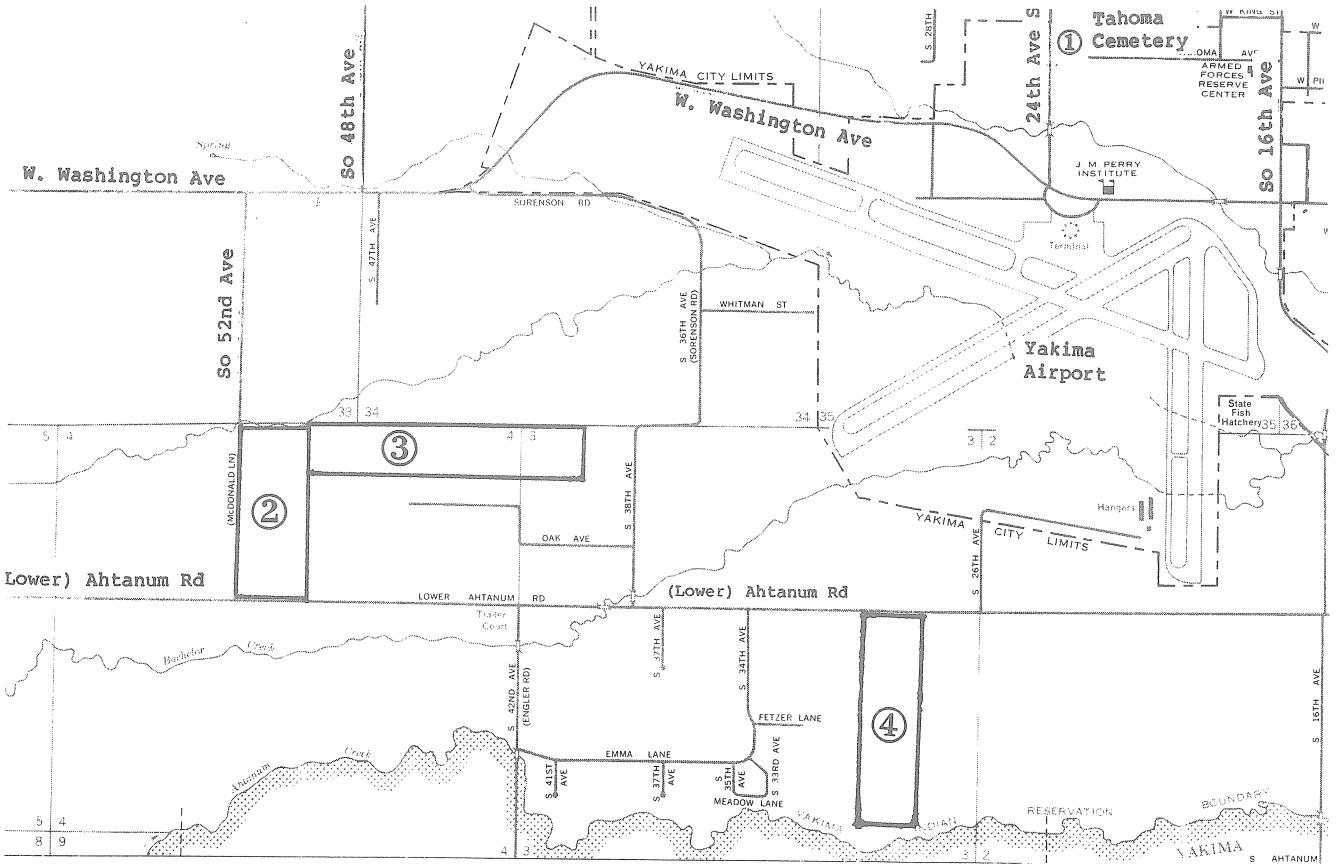
When the Scoullers arrived the best lowland had been snatched up. Still there was plenty of good farmland available. They settled on a 80 acre ranch about two miles northeast of town. Agnes bought an 80 acre piece just up the road from her brother. Whether she lived on the property, farmed it, or whatever is not known. Thomas' property, which is currently the home of Nick Nordwell, sits on a plateau north of town (see Goldendale Map). When they arrived the place had a house, an outhouse and a log barn that stands today, though it had some additions.

In 1903 John Nordwell and his family moved to the area and in 1904 paid Agnes $800 in cash for her 80 acres. That's just $10 an acre. The following year Ruby Scoulller married Peter Nordwell who had a farm of his own. Their story continues in Chapter 12. In 1905 the rest of the family, Thomas, his sister Agnes and John and Anna moved to Yakima. The new home was 24 acres of flat farm land located on McDonald Lane (now 52nd Street) about a mile west of what is know the Yakima Airport (see Yakima Map). Anna married a neighbor Frank Purviance in 1905 and John married Nellie Lusby in 1908. The Lusby's lived about a mile away.

Thomas and his son John farmed the McDonald place for years. It was small as farms go. With a few cattle, some pigs and chickens, and after making room for the family garden there wasn't much acreage left for profit. In the early 1900's most Yakima farms, like the Scoullers, grew dryland crops. Water rights were a big issue for farmers and Antanum Creek never had much water come summer. More than a few times you'd find John out on the dirt road with his neighbor. Each giving the other what for for using more than their share. Actually, the treaties gave the Indians first rights to the water. No matter how much feuding went on out on the road there wouldn't be enough water. So, for farmers like the Scoullers, dryland crops it was.

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 1/2 mile



(1) **Tahoma Cemetery**, 1607 S. 24 Avenue, where most Yakima Scoullers are buried. (Be careful not to confuse with the Calvery Cemetery which is nearby.)

(2) The Scouller's 27 acre farm and home of **Thomas, Agnes, and John and Nellie Scouller's family** starting in 1905. By the 1940's the north half had been sold with the remainder becoming the homes of Lilly Scouller and David Jacob (2403 So. 52nd); John and Nellie Scouller, and Adam and Mary Purviance Lust (5101 Ahtanum Rd . . . which is at the corner of 52nd and (lower) Ahtamum).

(3) The farm and home of **Albert Purviance**, the parents of Anne Scouller's husband, Frank Purviance.

(4) The farm of the parents of John Scouller's wife, **Nellie Lusby**.

Directions to the Scouller property. From I-82, Highway 12 or anywhere, follow the signs to the Yakima Airport, that'll also put you on W. Washington Avenue. From the airport go west about 2 miles and turn left onto So. 52nd Avenue. A ¼ mile down the road the property starts; and it ends at Antanum Rd.

Since the farm was small John worked off the farm when there was time and opportunity. In the fall he got jobs picking hops and apples. He'd scout out farms in advance to find out which rows had the heaviest yields and then he'd head for them on picking day. Families or groups were assigned specific rows so the owners could tell who was not picking everything, being careless, etc. On a good day John could pick over 200 boxes of apples. With pay at 5 cents a box, he brought home $10. John was a great worker and outshined most in the field. During the depression he worked the wheat harvest, traveling for weeks with the crew.

While highly energetic, John still did things at home that kept money short. He would sell whole milk and buy butter and cream when most were still churning their own. He sold wheat and bought it back in sacks. Even so, they had many of the comforts of the day. In 1918 they bought their first car, a new Model T. Ford, for $800. The car raised a cloud of dust as it sped down McDonald Lane at 20 to 30 mph. The car got up to 30 miles per gallon, and if the road was good enough, it could get up to 45 mph. John didn't learn to drive until they got the car. Thomas never tried to learn -- he didn't want a thing to do with those new fangle things. Thomas was amazed that cars could go around corners. Seven years later they sold the Ford and went first class getting a new 1925 Oldsmobile with rollup windows and a self starter.

Their first radio was a battery powered affair. Without electricity or home generator it meant hooking it up to the car for its daily charge. This particular type of radio was one of the very first commercially available.

The Scoullers were one of the last in the neighborhood to get electricity. They were content with their wood heat and cooking and kerosene lighting. But around 1925 they hooked up. On their first night with lights young Tom snuck around and pulled the plug to the lamp. His grandfather Thomas in apparent disgust bellowed "The darn thing broke already!" Clothes washing was a three tub affair and an all day chore. One tub was for washing, one for rinsing, and the other for blueing (yesterday's equivalent to bleaching). In 1932 they added an electric clothes washer but they continued to line dry their clothes into the 1980's.

While some say Thomas wasn't adventurous, he certainly was distinguished looking and colorful. He, of course, was from old Scotland and brought with him strict rules for life. He read his bible frequently and didn't drink, smoke, dance, and seldom cussed. He also was very independent. For years he lived in a small house he built on the place, while John, Nellie and their five kids Tom (the oldest born in 1909), Dan (John), Ernie, Lilly and Rose (the youngest born in 1921) lived in the main house along with Aunt Agnes. The little house wasn't in the best of condition and in the winter Grandpa Thomas moved-in with John's family.

Kids will be kids but with grandpa in the house clashes of standards sparked now and then. Actually, Thomas tried to stay out of raising the grandkids but when he couldn't tolerate what was going on anymore you'd hear a loud Scottish "My Song" that was his cuss word which struck fear in little hearts.

Another time when you could hear Thomas yell was when his boils were being given the home remedy. Both he and John had boils more often than they liked. When the boils were ready to lance, a pop bottle was heated over the stove and then the hot neck slid over the boil, forcing the puss out. Not a treatment without pain.

The family, like most farm families ate well but had little else. Fruit and garden produce were canned. In the Yakima cold, meat was simply hung in a tree, but when the warmer weather arrived meat was on the menu two or three times a day.

A truly exciting time was late summer -- Harvest Time. All but the biggest farms had their grain custom thrashed. Twenty-horse team thrashers and a crew of 25 made quick work of most fields. For the Scoullers, about 2 hours. A family considered it a privilege to be the last customer of the day and be able to house and feed the crew for the night.

Summer meant hot weather and swimming in Antanum Creek. The attraction was strong; certainly more so to John's teenage boys than chores. One year young Tom was to keep the 3 acre corn field hoed and weed free. In the Yakima heat three hoeings would do the trick. Tom did fine for a while. Then it became; hoe three rows and off to swimming, then two, then one. His dad soon noticed and was marking the daily progress with a tin can.

Homemade beer was big with the local boys, including the Scoullers. With few trees and only flat open fields, hiding the brew was a major problem. So the kegs were stashed in the barn but not always successfully. Nearly every time they'd inadvertently tip off their mother, Nellie. One big give away was the boys would take cups out of the house for no apparent reason. Anyhow, Nellie saw to it that it was dumped. More than once though John volunteered to "take care of it". Being a valley boy in the 1920's also meant taking your 410 shotgun everywhere you went just in case a pheasant flushed.

In 1921 when Thomas was 74, he built the last of the three or four houses he built on the property. This house, though barely any of it original self remains, is at what is now 5101 Antanum Road on the corner of Antanum Road and So. 52nd. Currently its the home of John and Nellie's niece, Mary Purviance Lust. Like the other houses he built, this one was made out of 1 inch by 12 inch boards with a 4 inch cleat over each crack. The inner wall was lined with cardboard. That's it. What insulation there was, was expensive and seldom used in farm homes.

The early Yakima Scoullers have all passed away. Agnes in 1932 at age 82, Thomas in 1940 at age 93, Anna in 1954 at age 69, John in 1962 at age 78 and Nellie in 1984 at age 92. All lie at rest at the Tahoma Cemetery at 1607 S. 24th Avenue in Yakima (see Yakima map).

John and Nellie were two people who everybody liked . . . there honest charm was magnetic. Nellie loved flowers and plants and her yard was always neat and alive. Her friends frequently gave her exotic plants, but with Nellie's coaxing and care they survived the harsh sun and cold of Yakima beautifully.

Today the original 24 acres has been reduced to less than four as urbanization approaches. Still there is family on the property. Lilly and David Jacob live on an acre; Nellie's 2 1/2 acres is rented by Lilly to their grandson who recently married and hopes to buy the land and its mobile home. Mary Lust lives at the corner.

John and Nellie's five kids, of course, grew up:

Thomas Scoulller

Tom, born in 1909 married Ester Eastly during the depression. He first worked for contractors on highway construction and for a while drove equipment for the State's Department of Highways. Late in the 1930's he started painting automobiles. By then their two children Evelyn and Tom were 4 and 5 years old.

In November of 1940 Tom and his family moved to Seattle. He joined the painters union and was soon painting houses, commercial buildings and what have you. During World War II things slowed down in the private sector and Tom, like thousands of others, went to work in the defense industries. He painted in the ship yards and then would go back to the general contractors for as long as he could. Ester became a mechanic for Boeing during the war.

Along the way Tom went into real estate and owned an apartment house for 19 years in Seattle's garlic gulch -- the Italian community. In 1962, he retired and moved to Camano Island near Stanwood though he dabbled in painting for a few years. Four years later, in 1966, they bought their view home where they live today at 824 S. Sundown.

Today Tom and Ester mostly take it easy and visit with their kids and grandkids. All the grandkids have become commercial fisherman and are in Alaska. Emphysema has slowed Tom and keeps him closer to home more than he likes.

John Daniel "Dan" Scoulller

John was born in 1914 and was John and Nellie's second. He and his wife, Marjorie Ward, had three children: Barbara, Daniel Lee, and Nancy. For most of his short adult life John worked at lumber mills around Yakima. In 1954 he was diagnosed as having cancer. A year and a half later it took his life at age 40.

(Note: Efforts to locate his former wife, who is reportedly Marjorie Soden of Naches, to find out more about the family were not successful.)

Lilly Scoulller

Lilly May at age 19 married a neighbor, David Jacob, on November 10, 1935. That's fifty years ago this year (1985). They also married during the depression and like the others a steady job was hard to come by. Lilly worked in packing houses during the harvest seasons and at about this time the Yakima airport was being constructed as a CCC project. Dave got in on the early phase and helped install the underground drainage systems that still work great today. Their son David Jr. was born during this time. As that job ran out the three Jacobs moved to the Grand Coulee Dam project. They spent 1937-39 there and then moved to the Seattle area where Dave worked in construction. During the war he worked a year at Boeing and the next 3 1/2 at the Bremerton navel yard. There he did electrical work on ships as well as on Navy housing projects.

After the war Lilly and the family returned to Yakima to settle permanently on the Scoulller Place. In 1950 they had the shell of their current cinder block home put up and they did the rest of the work themselves. The home, which is located at 2403 South 52nd Street, sits on an acre which lies about in the middle of the original Scoulller property. (See Yakima Map in this chapter). Dave returned to construction work in Yakima, which he stayed with until his retirement in 1977 at age 61. Their son is in construction and does a lot of the blasting work. They have two children, now grown.

In retirement Dave and Lilly take care of their dogs, a garden, Lilly's younger sister Rose, visit friends and relatives and cut five to seven cord of fire wood each year. They also do chores around the place. During one such chore in 1979 Dave and Lilly discovered history buried on the property:

"A Yakima man and his family have found some telltale traces of valley history right in their own backyard and they believe there could be more.

Mr. David Jacob was digging a posthole for an electrical pole at his mother-in-law's house when he struck a cache including a handmade cannonball, several horseshoes of different sizes (also handmade with handmade nails), parts of a cast iron stove and copper kettles and cups. Jacobs said he has also found what he thinks are old whiskey bottles near the artifacts.

Nellie Scoulller, Jacob's mother in law, said that in her lifetime, the ground where the objects were found has never been plowed or tilled. Scoulller is 88 years old and has lived on the property for the past 71 years.

Jacob found the artifacts in December of 1977 while digging a hole for an electrical pole at Scoulller's mobile home on the property. Scoulller's original home had been torn down on the property.

Jacob used a shovel and pick to dig a hole one yard in diameter and five feet deep and in the process found the bits of Americana which he believes were part of a military encampment at the site sometime before the turn of the century.

The cannonball is handmade in two pieces of equal size. It is four inches in diameter, 12 inches around and weighs 17 pounds, according to Jacob's wife, Lilly.

The cannonball has an outside caseing of copper, and an inside casing of cast iron but Jacobs' say that they are unsure of the material used to fill the casings because of the weight.

The horseshoes found at the site are handmade of several sizes and shapes. Jacob said the smaller may have been used to shoe mules while the larger shoes are of a size that would fit horses.

Along with the artifacts, Jacob found ashes and coke in several spots while laying wire. He thinks these were sites of campfires nearly 100 years ago.

Jacob said the Yakima Valley Museum has requested that the objects be placed on exhibit.

Jacob thinks that there may be more artifacts in the ground because the hole where the objects were found is only one yard in diameter."

Yakima Community News
November 14, 1979

Ernie Scouller

Ernie got out of high school in the mid 1930's and hung around Yakima for about five years. He married Marjorie Stewart and in April 1940 they had Leon the first of their four children. But find a steady job he couldn't. When the US was drawn into World War II Ernie and the family moved to western Washington and went to work for Boeing. The first plane he worked on was a passenger seaplane called The China Clipper. The early clippers could fly 3,200 miles non-stop and 130 mph! On November 22, 1935 (50 years ago) a China Clipper made the first ever flight across the Pacific. It took 4 stops and 59 hours and 48 minutes of flying time.

In 1944 he received his greeting -- a draft notice from Uncle Sam -- and was off to the Marine corp tank combat training. Before his unit could get overseas the war ended. Ernie sighed in relief and returned to his family and to Boeing.

When they moved from Yakima they settled in South Seattle where Patricia was born in March 1943 and James in April 1945. A year or two later they moved to a 29 acre farm in the Auburn Valley. In 1948 they added the 41 acres next door for just $800 -- Oh how he wished he had hung on to that! While there Ernie farmed, mostly beef cattle, and continued to work at Boeing. Eventually they moved back into town. Sharon was born while they were on the farm.

In 1960 Ernie and Marjorie divorced. Later Ernie married Lillian Strauss. At Boeing he worked as a body and wing mechanic. In his 32 years with Boeing Ernie worked most every job there was on the assembly at one time or another. In 1979, at age 61, he retired. He and Lillian happily left the big city rat race for the tranquility of Whidbey Island. After six months on the Island they bought there current home at 335 E. Fakkema, Oak Harbor. Like his brother Tom, Ernie has been slowed down by emphysema.

Rose Scouller

Rose is John and Nellie's youngest, being born in October 1921. Soon after high school Rose married Joe Guthrie. In Yakima ,Joe worked as a farm hand. Late in 1940 Joe and Rose moved west with the hope of finding a good job on the "coast", as people in eastern Washington call

the westside of the Cascades.

Joe got on with plumbing contractors and with the war moved into ship yards. Nellie, their first child, was born in May 1941 while they lived in Seattle. By the time John was born in November 1943 they lived in Gig Harbor near Tacoma. At wars end the family moved back to eastern Washington and settled on a small farm near Sunnyside. They operated their farm and Joe also hired out as a farmhand. Ben their third and last child was born in October 1945 not long after they moved onto the farm.

Rose was married to Joe for 12 years. To say the least, the marriage was not the best thing for Rose. There apparently was physical and mental abuse. Soon after their separation she went to the Medical Lake Hospital, which turned out to be a 12 year stay. In the 1960's Rose returned to the Scoulller property, staying with her mother until her death in 1984. Today Rose lives in a small house next to Lilly and Dave.



Thomas Scoulller holding his bible, Yakima, WA. Jul 16, 1938



John & Nellie Scoulller's wedding portrait, 1908



Thomas Scoulller's grown-up kids:
Right to Left Ruby Nordwell, John
& Anna Purviance with Nellie
Scoulller and Pete Nordwell



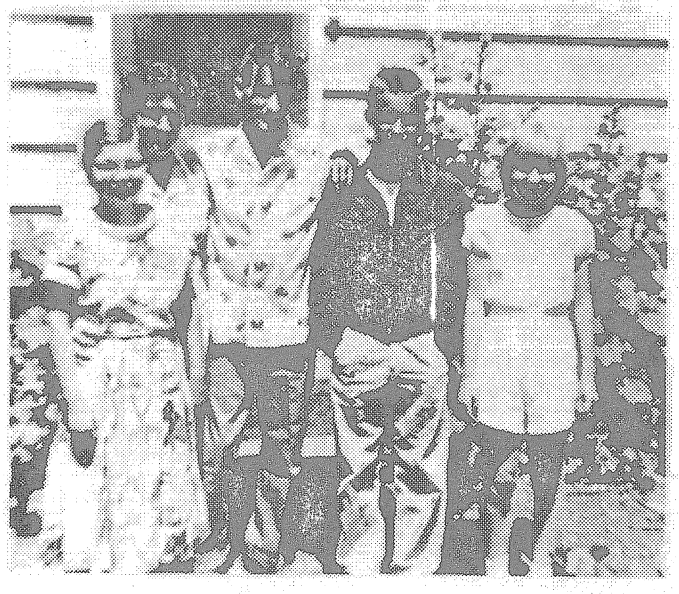
Rose, Ernie,



John, Nellie & their 5 kids:
Ernie, Tom, Lilly, Ernie, Rose



Lilly Scoulller Jacob at abandoned
home of John Nordwell north of
Goldendale



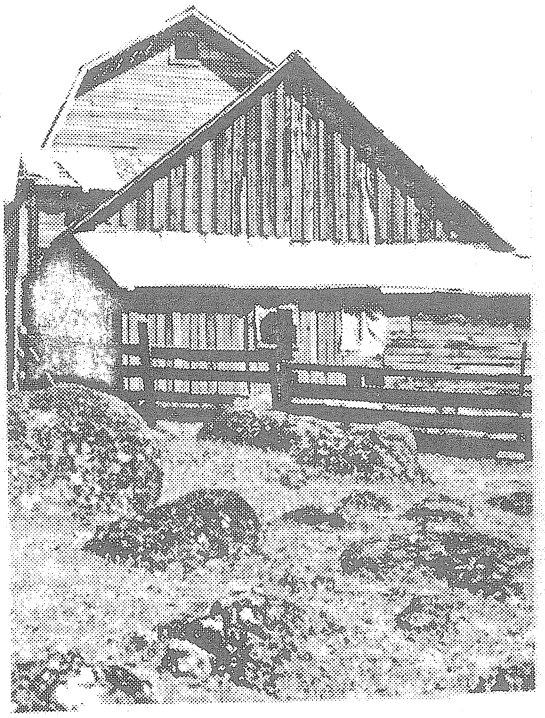
"Dan" Scoulller & family, 1954.
Barbara, wife Marjorie, Daniel,
Nancy



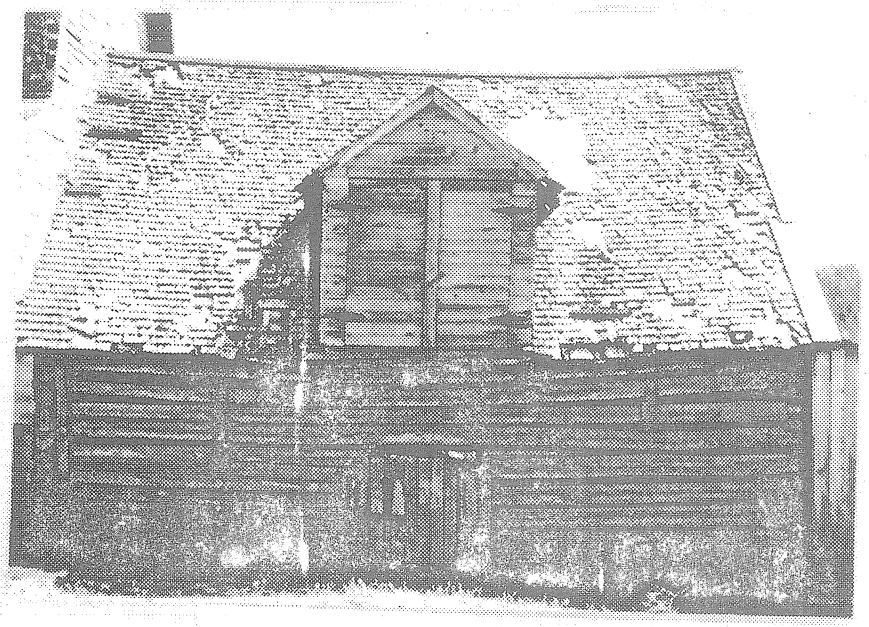
Thomas Scoulller



John, Nellie & their kids at their 50th wedding anniversary 1958

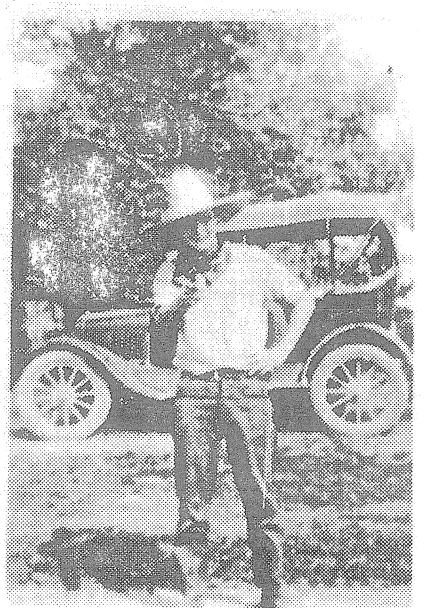


The Scoulller log barn & additions. June 1985



The Scoulller log barn today. June 1985

Young Tom Scoulller & family car, 1927



Agnes, Thomas



Yakima
Wash.
Jan. 4th
1929

Whatsoever of my property
is left after all my
funderal espenses are paid.
I wish it to be equally
divided between my Nephew
John T. Scouller and my
Niece Ruby R. Nordwall
and my Niece Anna C.
Purviance. My brother
Thomas' three children.
The above mentioned
John T. Scouller and Anna C
Purviance to be my
executors

Agnes Scouller

WARRANTY DEED.

FROM George M. Wright

TO Thomas Scoullen

Warranty Deed

Cail

1889

Filed for Record in the Clerk's Office of said County, this 31 day of Dec A.D. 1888, at 1 o'clock and — minutes, P M.

R. S. Cooper, County Clerk

Know all Men by These Presents;

That I George M. Wright a widower

of the County of Seward and State of Nebraska for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty Two Hundred DOLLARS in hand paid, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey and Confirm, unto Thomas Scoullen

of the County of Seward and State of Nebraska the following described Real Estate, situated in G Town in Seward County, and State of Nebraska: to-wit

The South half (½) of the North West quarter (¼) of Section twenty six (26) in Township eleven (11) North of Range three (3) East of the 6th P M.

This Conveyance is made subject to a Mortgage on said land for the sum of $1200, bearing interest at the rate of 8 per cent and which said Mortgage with all interest thereon from and after March 1st 1888 this grantee herein his heirs grantees and assigns, hereby assume & agree to pay as a part of the above mentioned consideration.

and I do hereby covenant with the said Thomas Scoullen and his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized of said premises; that they are free from incumbrance, except said Mortgage that I have good right and lawful authority to sell the same; and I do hereby covenant to warrant and defend the title to said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. except said $1200 Mortgage

~~And the said~~ ~~hereby relinquishes all~~ ~~in and to the above described premises.~~

Signed this fifth day of December A. D. 1888.

In Presence of

R. S. Norval

George M. Wright

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, SEWARD COUNTY, } ss.

On this fifth day of December A. D. 1888 before me R. S. Norval a Notary Public duly commissioned and qualified for and residing in said County, personally came George M. Wright, a widower to me known to be the identical person described in and who executed the foregoing conveyance as grantor and acknowledged the execution of the said instrument to be his voluntary act and deed.

WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal the day and year last above written.

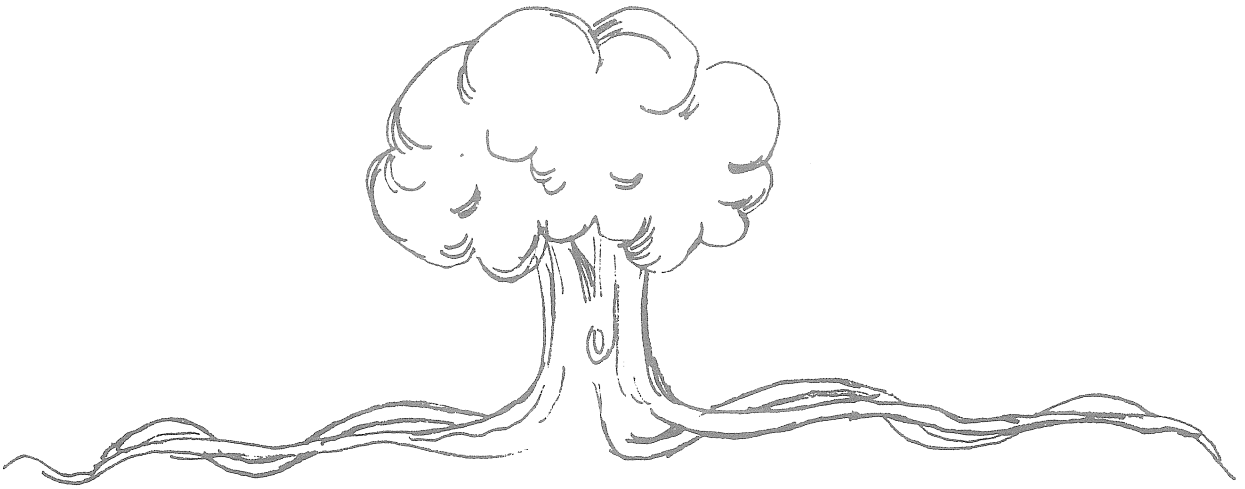
R. S. Norval Notarial Seal Seward Co. Nebraska

39

R. S. Norval

Notary Public

NOTES



3

ANNA SCOULLER PURVIANCE

The Anna & Frank Purviance family--Frances, Agnes, Mary, Albert, Elsie

Compiled and written by Elsie Purviance Eschbach

Of the three children born to Thomas and Anna (Toy) Scouller, Anna Osborne was the last; she was born on 10 September, 1885 in Storm Lake, Iowa. While a new birth is looked upon as a joyous occasion, in this instance, it was also a time of deep sadness as it took the life of the mother. The maternal grandmother of little Anna, Rebecca (Rusk) Toy, undertook the care of the three motherless children, but her own health was failing - she died the following July. Aunt Agnes then took charge of the children.

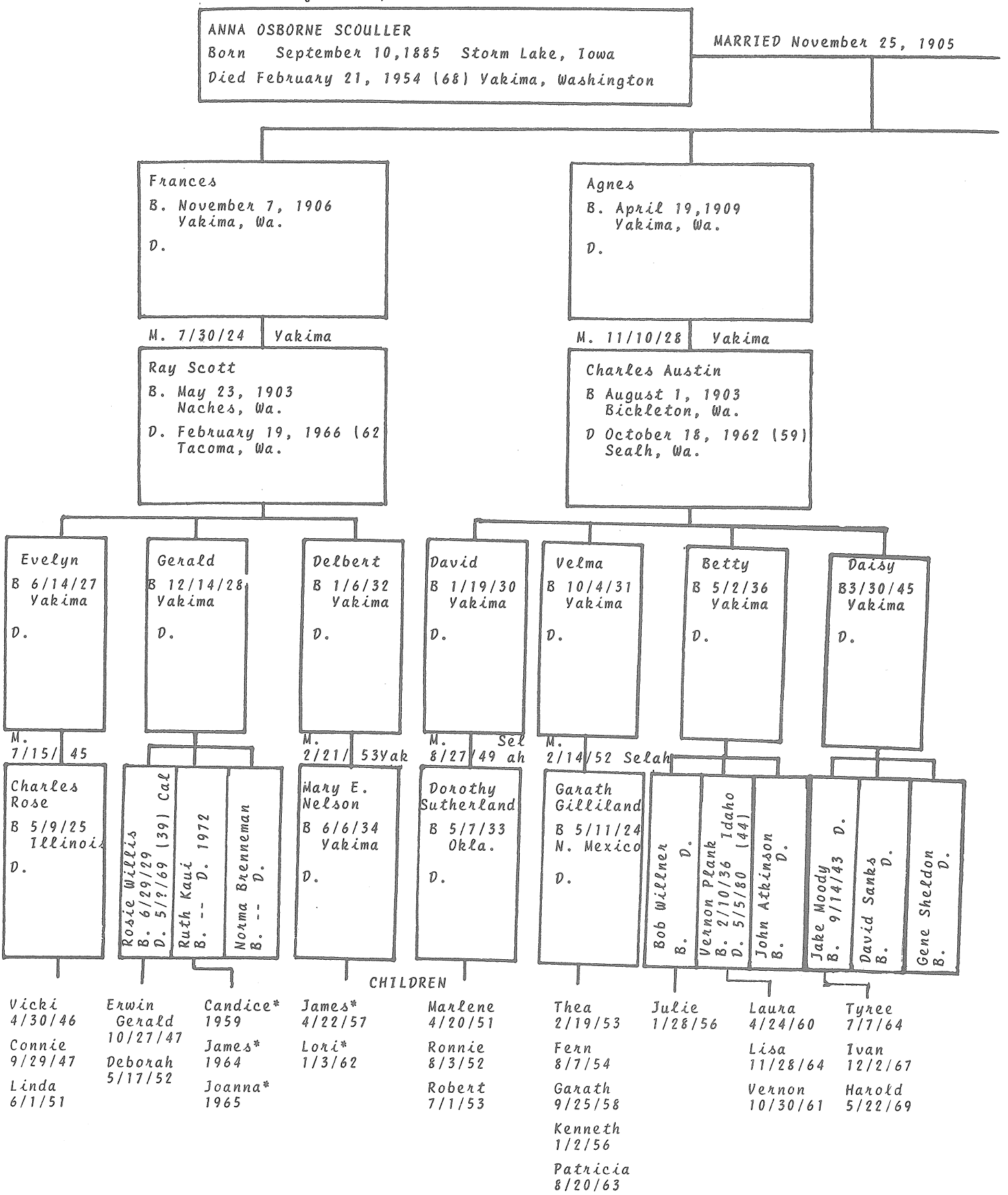
The exact date when Agnes Scouller came from Fenwick, Ayr Co., Scotland, is not known, but it is believed to be before the death of Grandma Toy. Thomas's sister, Agnes, had at one time studied/or wanted to study to be a doctor but became a licensed midwife instead. Her medical training was undoubtedly a blessing, she probably made frequent use of it while raising the three youngsters, as well as assisting in the delivery of their babies in later years.

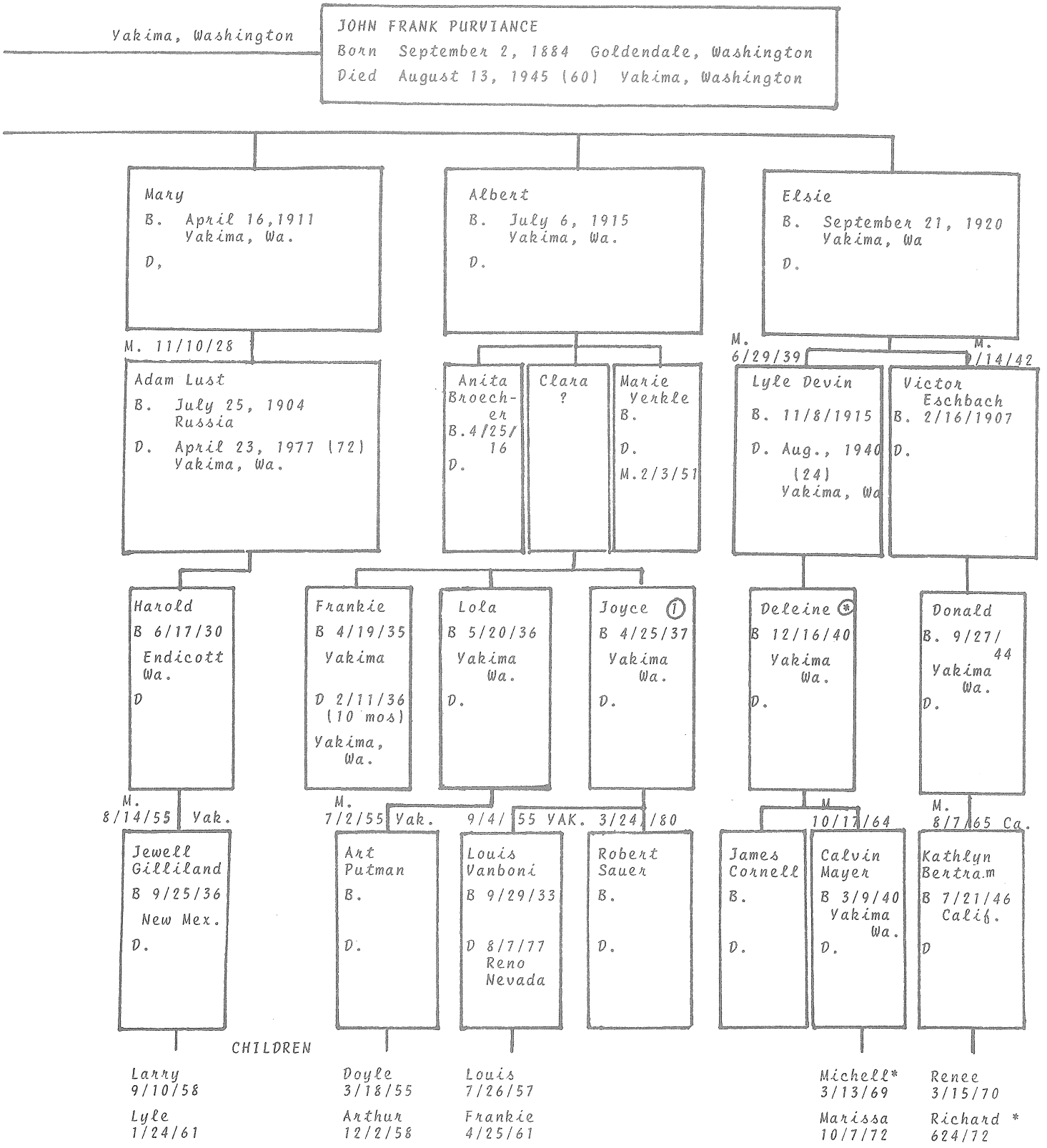
Having an "auntie" and father born in Scotland to raise them, the three children must have displayed many Scottish mannerisms and customs; other school children were quick to note any such difference. One winter they had the flu (called the GRIP); when the children returned to school with their lunch sack, it became known as their "grip-sack".

As the children grew up, John and Anna, the two younger ones, delighted in teasing their older sister Ruby; she would put-up with only so much before she would take out after them. Tradition holds that the younger ones always had reason to regret their folly although it did not restrain them for long. This habit continued into their married years.

After several years in Iowa, Thomas moved the family to Nebraska where the farming appeared better and they had a better constructed home. The new area seemed to appeal to "Auntie" as she commented in one of her poems that "she could get to Church once more." The grass must have appeared greener elsewhere, before long they were on their way to the State of Washington and settled in Goldendale.

Continued from Chapter 1





August 1985
All dates are month/day/year

#'s in brackets indicate age at death

* Adopted

(*) Adopted by Victor Eschbach

(1) Adopted by Noah Collins

Thomas took his family to Yakima, Washington for the annual hop-picking season each fall. It was in the Purviance hopyard that Anna met one of the two sons of Albert Hale Purviance - John Frank. Frank must have taken a liking to Anna, and she to him, on Nov. 5, 1905 she became his bride. Thomas had by that time moved his family to Yakima on an acreage slightly to the west of the Purviance farm.

Hops were light and fluffy, and the barrels filled slowly; how often Frank helped to fill Anna's barrel can only be speculation, but the hop-picking activity continued for many years. No one was made rich but there was a certain excitement about "hop-picking time" that seemed to transcend its other more monotonous features. It was an event Anna enjoyed, and all of her five children had ample exposure to the experience as well, but never at the rate of speed Anna mastered early in life - a feat that gave her considerable pride.

Following the marriage of Frank and Anna, they moved down the road a little ways from the farms of their parents to an acreage of their own; this was an area that was to remain Anna's home for the rest of her life.

Frank descended from a line of Purviances that had been traced back to Scotland and the Glasgow area. The family line was engaged in shipping, and shipping points were established wherever any of their family settled.

In or around 1610, Jon de Purviance arrived in France - in Royan which was another shipping point. The Purviances were protestant and called "French Huguenots" which did little to endear them to the French Catholics. In the years which followed there was constant turmoil between the ruling religious bodies. It didn't seem to matter whether the Catholics or Protestants were in power, the other was severely persecuted. In 1630 the above Jon was executed, reportedly because of his religious beliefs. His descendants remained there until 1685 when the Catholics removed the last provision for religious freedom (Edit of Nantes). They then fled to northern Ireland to an area called Casltefin, Co. of Donegal. This area already contained Purviance cousins who had left France some 3-4 decades earlier and were engaged in the shipping business. Four emigrant brothers - descendants of Jon - left Ireland around 1740 for America.

They were in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania until ca 1767 when they migrated to Cabarrus Co., North Carolina. They left there in 1820 and remained in Illinois (central) until Frank's grandfather, James (the oldest of 11 children) left the family fold. By 1880 he was in Goldendale, Washington. They arrived in Yakima in 1897. Frank, his brother, Roy, and two sisters Cora and Carrie, were born in Goldendale.

Anna seemed quite content with farm-life; however, it was never an occupation which appealed to Frank. Before their second child, Agnes, was born in 1909, they leased the farm to a brother-in-law and moved to Union Gap. They operated a grocery store on Broadway with Anna's brother John. The two families later moved to quarters above the store. It is not known how

long they followed that pursuit, but they were back on the farm by the time Mary was born in 1911.

Frank, thereafter, farmed along with side-lines in selling; he had a grocery wagon which he drove to the harvest areas and supplied bread, meat, candy, pop, etc. He later became a "Rawleigh Man." It has been told that at on time Frank very much wanted to become a minister, but was discouraged by his parents and sisters; this profession would probably have brought much greater satisfaction and success than he found in farming.

In winter time there were quilts to make and when the quilt patches were all put together the frames would go up in the living room for the finish work of tying the blocks together. There was barely room to move through the area to and from bedrooms until the quilt was out of the frames. There were card parties also to attend and the children enjoyed these as much as the parents. Since John and Anna lived fairly close to each other, sometimes these parties were reached in winter by horse and sleigh.

There was a large skating pond that drew most of the youngsters in winter - this area was flooded over, a big pot of oyster soup or other type of soup was cooked over an open fire and sampled generously. The oldest child of Frank and Anna has a picture of herself and her husband-to-be, Ray Scott, skating on this pond.

All five children of Frank and Anna attended the two room Armstrong School located over a half mile distance from the farm. This school building was used during various periods for a Sunday School on Sunday.

There were always cows to milk; when the girls were around six they were introduced to the milk stool and bucket to "help Dad" with the milking; this continued through all five of the children as the older ones married, the younger ones assumed the chore.

In the summer time, the most frequent outing was to Soda Springs - a trip Frank enjoyed especially. The Fourth of July was a special occasion with all the relatives arriving with their large baskets of food, pop, and ice cream. It rarely took a special holiday, however, for the family to go to the hills for the day. Soda Springs acquired the name from the springs of soda water which Frank thought were great for a tonic and many jugs were toted home with them. The trip there in their touring car was a hazardous excursion when it came to the very narrow road through a section labeled "hanging rocks" or sometimes just the NARROWS. Cars could not pass each other through parts of it, and many a driver had to back-up to a wider spot to let another car go through. This was an era when cousins enjoyed the companionship of FAMILY, and was cherished as a favorite form of recreation.

Frank and Anna followed the Christmas traditions. Anna was especially adept at making a little money go a long way - generally this included some of her hop-picking money that she had carefully hid for this purpose or other emergencies. There were stockings to be hung, and filled before morning with

little gifts, oranges, nuts & candies, books to read, dolls and doll clothing and appropriate gifts for the one boy in the family. One Christmas Anna and Mary were quarantined in the home of John and Nellie, and Frank hid some candy for Agnes and Frances in the sewing machine drawer; it was a bleak Christmas for them.

The family circle was broken when the oldest, Frances, age 17, married Ray Scott leaving Anges, age 14, Mary, age 12, Albert age 7 and Elsie age 3.

Frances Purviance

Frances and Ray had three children, Evelyn, Gerald, and Delbert. Ray followed the railroad occupation most of his life until he retired; some of this period in later years was on location in Pasco, Washington, but returned to their home in Yakima at retirement. Frances sang in the choir at the Christian Church for many years. She was taught to play the organ by Auntie Scouller, when she was a child, and enjoyed music. As of this writing, June of 1985, Frances, a widow, is in a retirement manor of the Yakima Convalescent Home. She has seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Agnes Purviance

Anges and Charles Austin had four children: David, Velma, Betty, and Daisy. Charles also worked for many years on the railroad, later farmed and managed rental properties. Agnes has 15 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Agnes, now a widow, lives in Selah and manages her rental properties and home.

Mary Purviance

Mary and Adam Lust had one son, Harold, who had two sons, Larry and Lyle. Adam spent most of his life on farms, and for many years worked for the Gilbert Orchards both as foreman and laborer. Mary packed apples for the Gilbert Co. during the earlier fall seasons. She, too, is a widow, and cares for her home and large yard in the lower Ahtanum area. This is the home site previously owned and occupied by Grandpa Thomas Scouller, and is next door to the place where Auntie Agnes lived in her later years until her death. Very little remains of the house Grandpa built - only a wall or two.

Albert Purviance

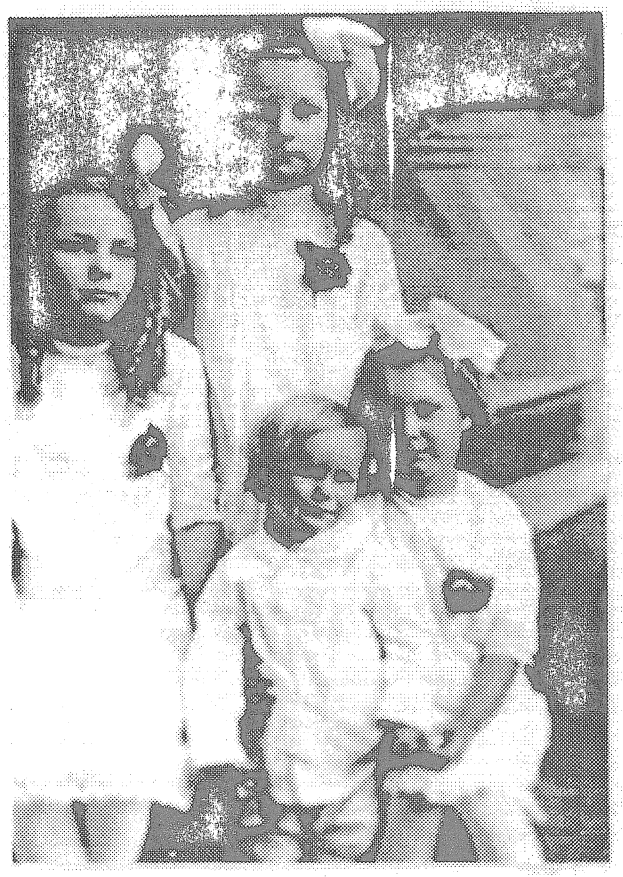
Albert married Anita Boecher and had three children: Frankie, who died at 10 months, Lola, and Joyce. He has six grandchildren and __ great grandchildren. He was a laborer and did yard maintenance until a serous heart problem curtailed his physical activity. His second marriage ended in divorce as did the first. He is married to Marie _____ and they make their home in Yakima.

Elsie Purviance

Elsie married Lyle Devin whose death preceded the birth of their daughter, Delaine. She then married Victor Eschbach and they had a son, Don. They have four grandchildren; and live in Yakima. Victor farmed for himself for many years and later worked on the farms of others, until becoming disabled. Elsie worked for the Federal Government for 30 years, retiring from Social Security on 1980. She is active in a number of activities including Family History and has recently started the Yakima Parkinson Support Group.



John Frank Purviance & Anna Scouller
wedding portrait





Ann & Frank Purviance children,
Front: Albert, Mary. Back:
Frances, Agnes, ——————————→ Elsie Purviance



Anna Scouller Purrivance with her
Purviance grandkids



Seated: Anna Purviance and
sister Ruby Nordwell, with Nellie
Scoulller



4

THE TOYS OF IRELAND

Alexander Toy & Jane O'Neil; The Daniel & Rosana Toy family

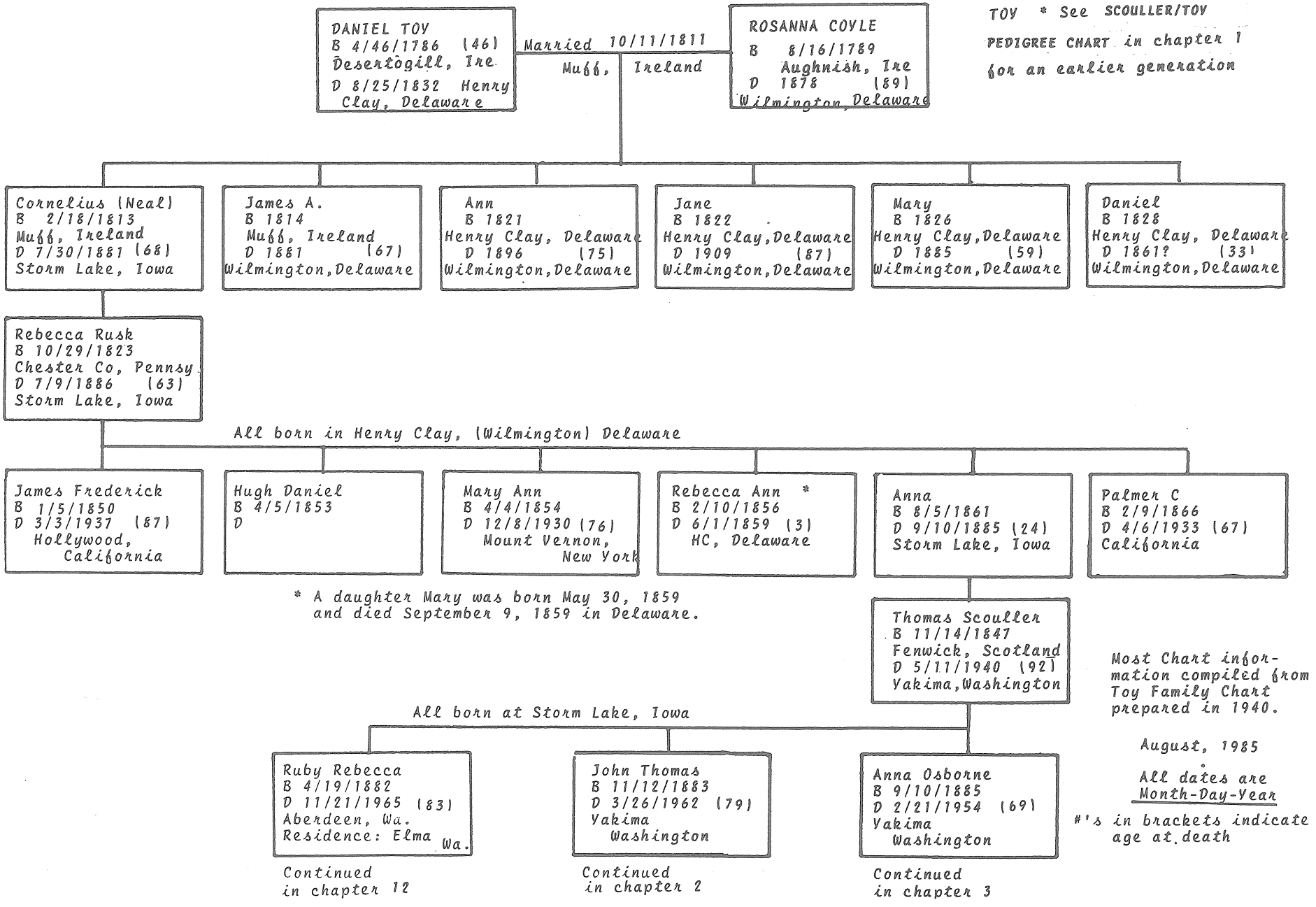
Ever need an excuse for losing your temper? Why not use this convenient stereotype . . . "It's just my Irish blood." Our Irish ties are linked to the 1881 marriage of Thomas Scouller of Scotland and Anna Toy and their three children Ruby Nordwell, John, and Anna Purviance.

These ties have been traced to 1785 and the counties of Donegal and Londonberry in Northern Ireland (see Ireland map). The records reveal that our Irish blood is limited at best. On July 16, 1785 Alexander Toy was living in Ireland when he married Jane O'Neil of Muff, Ireland. They married in the Presbyterian church there and on the marriage records he is listed as being born in Scotland. Church records also show that they had at least two children; Daniel on April 6, 1786 and Alexander on October 27, 1792. The Church of Ireland show that Daniel Toy of Desertgill married Rosanna Coyle of Aughnish on October 11, 1811 in Muff. Rosanna, who was born August 16, 1789 was the daughter of Michael and Ann Coyle a Catholic family living in Aughnish.

The Toy name originates from Scotland and is of French Hugenotin origin. Early spelling included Tuay, Toi, Tohy, Toey, Touy, etc. One of Daniel's grandson's, James F. Toy, had the Toy family researched. Opal Toy Langdon who lives in California said that that effort took the family into France. Unfortunately the details of the research have since been lost. For our true Irish blood we must rely on Rosanna, and that she provides. Coyle is an old Irish name very common in Northern Ireland -- Londonberry, Tyrone, and Donegal districts (counties).

Daniel and Rosanna apparently lived near or in Muff before coming to America (see Ireland map). Neal, who is of our bloodline was born there on February 18, 1813 (the 1940 Toy family chart indicated January 1, 1813). Exactly where Daniel lived and what he did in Ireland has not been discovered.

Why non-English people, and those with Catholic ties in particular, left Ireland is not hard to understand. At the top of the list has to be foreign rule, loss of their land, repressive laws and political turmoil. Not to mention over-population and living near the brink of famine. British control began in 1169 with the Norman Invasion. The control swung back and forth between political and religious leaders. In this volatile climate there were many invasions, internal rebellions, crop failures and little for the Irish



TOY * See SCOULLER/TOY PEDIGREE CHART in chapter 1 for an earlier generation

Most Chart information compiled from Toy Family Chart prepared in 1940.

August, 1985

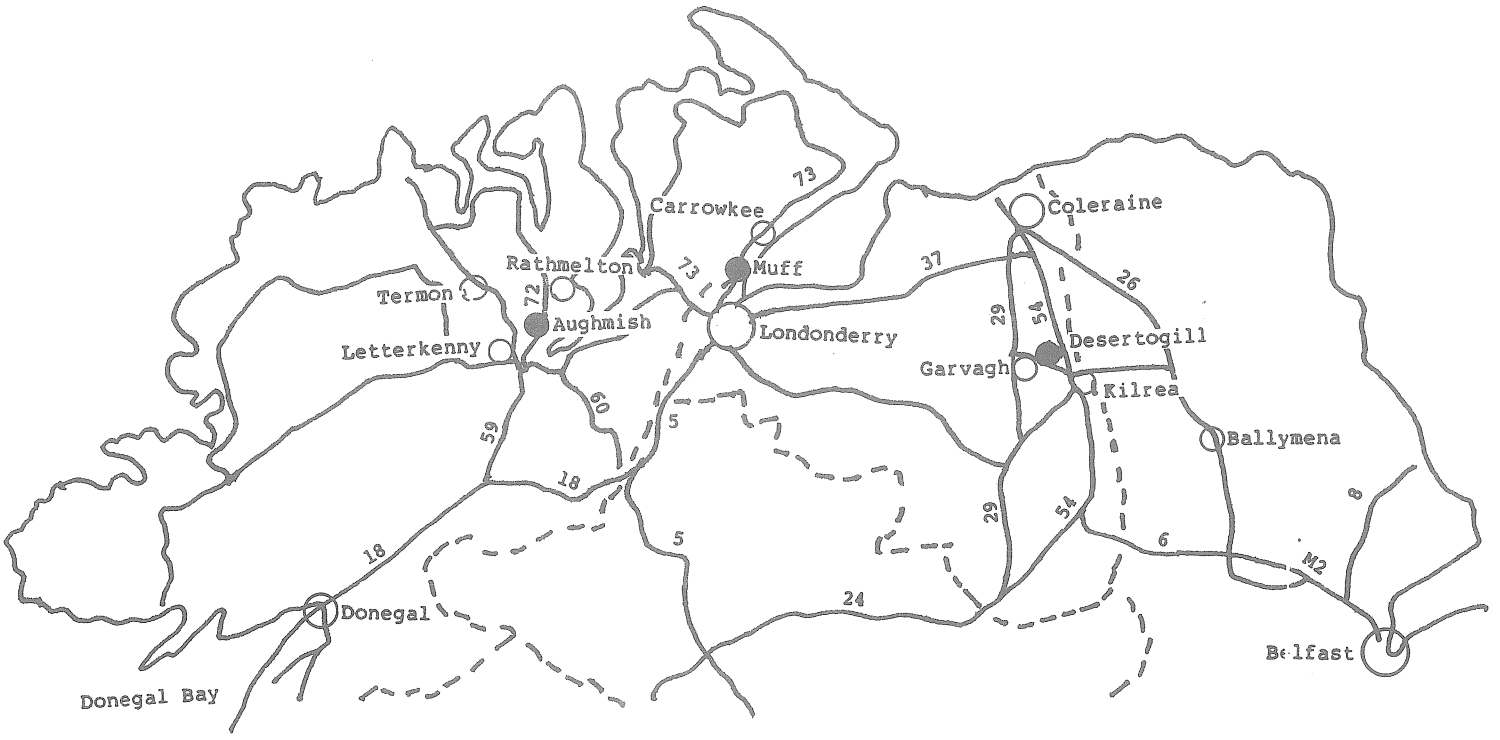
All dates are Month-Day-Year

#'s in brackets indicate age at death

IRELAND

DONEGAL, LONDONDERRY AND ANTRIM COUNTIES

Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 15 miles





Of the Ireland places listed on the Toy family charts only Muff appears on the maps available here in the USA. Desertogill and Aughmish were located from some old faint maps sent by the geneologist who researched Toys back an additional generation. Whether these places exist today is not known.

themselves. The turmoil has parallel's to today's ongoing battle between the British Protestants and the IRA, (Irish Republic Army). Several historians theorize that the centuries of conflict is from the failure of the invaders to truly conquer. As such, there has always been a flame of hope for freedom and independence.

Repressive laws known as the Penal Laws, were carried over from ruler to ruler. These laws were the legal means for the English to confiscate the people's land. By 1700 over 12 million of the 17 million acres of tillable land was "transferred" to English control. For the most part the former owner became tenants.

By 1750 the British controlled Protestant Church of Ireland was in control. They added to the already repressive Penal Laws and also raised land rents. The new laws dictated that Catholics could inherit property only if they converted to the Protestant church. Another law required tithing to the State church even though many parishes had no parson or formal church head. Another law recognized only marriages conducted by the State Church.

The over-population in Ireland was more severe than in Scotland and Sweden. By 1800 the population was 4 million. Amazingly it grew to 8 million by 1850. In contrast, the 1980 population was 3.5 million. Crop failures only compounded the problems of poverty, disease and starvation. The great potato famine of 1848 was only the worst. A crop failure meant not only a shortage of food in the winter but a shortage of seed potatoes for spring planting. The 1848 famine lead to a million deaths and triggered a mass exodus to America.

Going to America

The Toys departed long before the 1848 famine. The first Toy known to leave was James who left in 1814 and settled in Henry Clay, Delaware near Wilmington. James is thought to be a brother of Daniel.

Daniel, Rosanna and their two young boys Neal and James came to America reportedly in 1818. The trip across was most likely on a sail freighter and probably took about six weeks though bad weather could have added a couple of weeks.

Just why the Toys left Ireland can only be speculated. But the word of jobs, food, economic opportunities and a full range of freedoms in America must have been a strong magnet to all except the very well off of Ireland.

In America

The Daniel Toy family also settled in the Brandywine valley town of Henry Clay. In the 1820's it was a small town with a small but growing du Pont Company which had located there in 1802.

Henry Clay, in fact, was more rural than city. Most families still put in a garden with lots of potatoes, a few had chickens and sold eggs to neighbors, and a few cows wandered about. The cows reportedly loved to sleep on the Brandywine Creek bridge during the summer. That was only a problem for the people who staggered home after a Saturday night at the Tavern. It was a time when there were no cars. In fact, few town people had horses and most everyone walked to work.

When they first arrived in Henry Clay, Daniel's family boarded at the Owen King home. A John Toy was also a boarder at the King house. By 1823 the family had grown to six with the addition of Ann in 1821 and Jane in 1822. They lived across the street from the Bogan Store. Later on, Ann and the storekeepers son, Paul, married.

The town attracted mostly Irish immigrant laborers, though the French and Italians were well represented. The attraction was jobs at du Pont Company which manufactured black powder for cannons, muskets and flintlocks. Most everyone worked for or did business with the du Pont Company located at Hagley. James Toy (Daniel's brother?) supplied U-drive-it horses for the company. Later his son, James established a harness business to compliment his dad's business. Daniel first appeared on the du Pont payroll on May 24, 1820 as a laborer and on August 24, 1820 he was promoted to powderman.

For women there wasn't much work; outside the home that is. Women supplemented family income by taking in laundry, ironing, sewing and so on. Rosanna and Daniel Toy chose to maintain a boarding house. They had two Irish boarders in 1823.

The Toys likely had little social life except that offered by the church and visiting neighbors. Daniel's son James at age 10 was in the second class of the Brandywine Manufacture's Sunday School. The kids entertained themselves by watching the local blacksmiths at work, playing, fishing, going to the Alexis I. du Pont School and ice skating on Brandywine Creek when it froze in the winters. Dances and parties were held in peoples home. For balls and large parties one of the local textile mills would be fancied up for the occasion.

Of course there wasn't much time for entertainment. Daniel worked 10 hours a day, Monday through Friday, and 9 hours on Saturday. Rosanna, I'm sure with the help of her kids, did the household chores and fed the family and the boarders. Sunday, Daniel's one day off, was for church and rest.

Actually the winter work hours at the Hagley plant were something less than 10 hours. Electricity didn't come into use until the early 1900's and candles or any flame was strictly tabbo at the powder plant. The dangers of the job were well known and the workers knew that their life depended on everyone being careful. It happened again . . . an explosion:

> "August 25th, 1832 Saturday at 2 o'clock. Dust Mill In Hagley -- killing Daniel Toy and Patrick Holland. The cause of this explosion is still in doubt and different theories are still believed

concerning it. Mr Irenee was coming down the walk at the Old Grainery (the building between the walls) when it occurred. Toy and Holland were sitting on the steps between the upperend which had the (Queazle) barrels and the flash wall. This upper end was also the composition house. One theory is that they, seeing Mr. Irenee coming, went to work roughly and caused the explosion. This I doubt. Mr. Anth, Bidemann was coming down from his house (now uncle Alexises) to the creek with a bundle of cloths to wash as it was Saturday and he expected company to dinner as he got to the Big Dogwood tree behind the press room it went off the mill had been turned on to Eagle and new Brass balls in the barrels. The (the brass balls) I believe to have been the cause of the explosion. Although Old Hugh Bogan who was then coopering a Glazing barrel in the millwright shop which then stood on the race bank immediately behind her heard a great commotion like ripening and tearing breaking timber, he jumped under the bench when the explosion occurred and the shop was knocked down over him. This looks as if the gearing had given away. But I do not place much reliance on any man's memory at such a time -- and thing the most probable cause was the Brass ball -- Both Toy and Holland were married men."

ROUGH TRANSCRIPT FROM THE PAPERS OF LAMMOND DU PONT ACC.384 Series B. Box 27

The explosion heavily damaged the plant and wasn't reopened until December.

Daniel was buried at the St. Peters Cemetery at age 46. Rosanna lived 89 years, passing away in 1878.

Sometime around 1845 Neal married Rebecca Rusk, a Quaker from Pennsylvania, whose family had apparently moved to Henry Clay. Their first child, James Frederick was born on January 5th, 1850 and Palmer C. the seventh in 1866. Two of their children, Rebecca and Mary, died very young.

The 1859/60 Wilmington City Directory listed Neal as living along the Kennett Turnpike and his occupation as quarryman. Some possible relatives of Daniel and Neal, and color of the times can be found in a local history book. Unfortunately the exact source is not known.

"James Toy (Daniel's Brother?) emigrated from Ireland in 1814, come to Henry Clay and supplied U-drive-it horses to the du Pont Company. The Hertz of his day --. His son, James F. Toy, began the operation of a harness business to supplement the horse rentals. James, Senior, is said to have died in an explosion in 1818. The combination saloon and grocery store operated by Toy, Jr. is listed in the atlas of 1868. He ran a quality emporium, having his own square bottles blown with the legend in the glass; 'James F. Toy Merchandise'. Such wording enabled him to use the bottles over and over again, one time for gin, the next for whiskey, then for cider, port or even castor oil. He paid the village boys 2 cents reward

for picking up his bottles from beside fallen drunks or from the trash piles and bringing them back washed for reuse. Chipped bottles, fit for grocery sale -- linament, soda, bluing or extracts -- brought a salvage value of only one penny.

The saloon was unique. It had two bars. One for the Catholics and one for the Protestants and it had seen some rowdy times. One of their more colorful customers was Jim Hahn who -- 'Use to delight in galloping full speed across the bridge, along Main Street and into Toy's Tavern'. During prohibition known as the Black Cat. After Prohibition Charlotte Toy lived in the old 3 story tavern building and revived the sale of legal liquors. On her death the property was willed to The Little Sisters of the Poor from whom P. Coleman du Pont purchased it for his residence. Extensive remodeling of the store's rooms and the residential section adjacent has made a livable home with doors too small for a horse to enter."

Through the 1800's the descendants of Daniel and Rosanna remained in the Henry Clay/Wilmington area. By the turn of the century a few had moved to Philadelphia, New York and other east coast cities. Neal, Rebecca and their four children were the exception. In 1867 they moved west to Iowa. One speculation as to why they moved is that they weren't well received in a Catholic family where every member was expected to marry another Catholic. Their first stop was Waterloo in Black Hawk County. Around 1875 they moved to Grant Township near Storm Lake (see the Storm Lake map in Chapter 1). By 1881 the Scotsman Thomas Scouller had settled nearby. The move west brought a career change for Neal -- he became a farmer.

The Toy kids became adults in Iowa. Anna, of course, married Thomas Scouller. As outlined in The Scouller history Anna died soon after delivering their third child, named Anna in honor of her mother.

Anna Toy Obituary

Annie Scouller, wife of Thomas Scouller, died at her home in Grant Township, Thursday, Sept the 9th, in the 24th year of her age. She moved with her parents Neal and Rebecca Toy to this county about ten years ago and has, by her kind disposition and lovable demeanor, made many warm friends, who with her husband and family mourn her early death. She was ambitious and had all that was bright and promising before her. Her young life was cut off shortly after her baby was born, she fully realized the end had come, was ready to meet her Father in Heaven and bade her husband, mother, and children peacefully passed away. The funeral was held last Saturday, the remains being deposited beside those of her father in the Storm Lake Cemetery.

Pilot Tribune, September 17, 1885 Storm Lake Iowa

Four years earlier her father Neal died of Brights Disease of the Kidneys on July 30, 1881 at the age of 71. Rebecca helped Thomas with her three grandchildren but took ill and passed away in 1886.

Rebecca Rusk Obituary

Died at the home of her son, James F. Toy at Storm lake, Iowa, Friday, July 9, 1886. Mrs. Rebecca Toy, aged 62 years, 8 months and 10 days.

Rebecca Rusk was born in Chester Co., Pa. Oct. 29, 1823 and was married to Neal Toy at Wilmington, Delaware Nov 10, 1844. In the year 1865 they came to Iowa first locating in Black Hawk Co. from when in 1875 they came to Buena Vista. Mrs. Toy was the mother of seven children, only three of whom she leaves behind. She was a devoted wife and mother and her life's work was best seen in the integrity and worth of her children; she was a woman of indomitable energy, and was rarely heard to complain and had not known a sick day for years until the disease, fatal from the first from which she died, began its ravages. Although a sufferer for more than a year, she did not give up until the last three months. Last year, after the sad death of her daughter, Mrs. Scouller, she felt it her duty to care for the motherless children which she did as long as she was able. The future held no terrors for her and patiently and uncomplaining she bore all pain and without a murmur of regret, she peacefully passed away only to be reunited with the majority of her own family in the eternal home beyond. The funeral ceremony was conducted by Rev. N. H. Houghton, Sunday, July 11th. A large circle of friends assembling to assist the last rites.

Pilot Tribune, July 15, 1886 Storm Lake Iowa

James, Neal's eldest, became quite the businessman. He was written up in the National Cyclopedia of American Biography (vol. 28; 1940; Page 226)

"Toy, James Frederick, banker, was born in Wilmington, Del., Jan. 5., 1850, son of Neal and Rebecca (Rusk) Toy. His father, a native of Londonberry, Ireland, came to the United States at the age of twelve. The son received his education at public schools in Wilmington. In 1867 he became a desk clerk with the Cutts & Anderson Grocery Co. at Waterloo, Iowa, where his family had moved in that year. During 1870-72 he was a clerk and for a year thereafter a traveling salesman with C. & W. Brubacher, a wholesale and retail implement house at Waterloo. In 1873 he moved to Storm Lake, Iowa, where he engaged in the lumber, coal and agricultural implement business as a member of the firm of Green & Toy. In 1874 he purchased his partner's interest and for the next three years continued the business under his own name. He then became associated with the firm of Dean & Harker in the organization of the Storm Lake State Bank, of which he was made cashier. In 1878 he

bought the private bank of Sutfin & Hay at Storm Lake, which subsequently became known as the Banking House of James P. Toy. In order to advertise this bank he published the 'Toy Advertiser.' In 1881 he started another bank at Alta, Iowa, and later established banks at Sioux Rapids and Fonda. To these he continued to add in the ensuing years until by 1926 he was president of a system of twenty-four banks with combined resources of $25,000,000. He continued as head of this chain until 1933, when new legislation necessitated the sale or liquidation of most of the subsidiaries of the parent institution, the Toy National Bank of Sioux City. Among the many institutions controlled by him was the Farmers Loan & Trust Co., which he organized at Storm Lake in 1883 with a capital of $300,000. In 1889 he transferred it to Sioux City, and it soon became one of the strongest and most influential financial institutions there. His ability as a banker was evinced by the fact that no bank in his large system ever failed or in any way compromised depositors. Apart from his banking interest he was a director of the Terminal Grain Corp. of Sioux City. During 1885-89 he was mayor of Storm Lake. He was a member of the American and Iowa bankers' associations, Sioux City chamber of commerce, Greater Sioux City committee, Boy Scout Council, Sioux City real estate board, Sioux City community fund, the Masonic order (32d degree, Shriner) and the Sioux City Kiwanis, Boat, Country, Traffic and Pioneer clubs. In religion he was a Universalist and in politics an independent. Personally, he was a conservative but open-minded man, democratic in manner and gifted with the faculty of making friends easily. He was married at Waterloo, Iowa, June 17, 1875 to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Washington Brubacher, a manufacturer of that city, and they had three children: Grace Helen, wife of John Wilfred Van Dyke; James Frederick, and Carleton Bayard Toy. He died at Hollywood, Calif. Mar. 3, 1937."

Today there are still Toy banks in the Storm Lake area. Carleton (Craig) and Virginia Van Dyke and their childrens families Vivian and Jim McCollough, and Mary and Jack Sloan are the only known Toy descendants in Iowa. There are also several Toy's in California who are still in the banking business.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — VITAL RECORDS SECTION — STATE OF IOWA

CERTIFICATION OF DEATH

Name Cornelius Toy Certif. No. 11-81-96

Date of Death July 30, 1881 19 ___ Place of Death Grant Twp., Buena Vista County

Date of Birth or Age 71 Sex Male Date Filed November 15, 1881

Cause of Death Brights Disease of the kidneys. Additional Information: Birthplace Ireland, Residence in Iowa 14 years, Farmer, Married, Buried at Storm Lake, Iowa on August 1, 1881.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above information was taken from the Record of Death on file in this office in accordance with the law of Iowa requiring filing of vital records.

Date November 2, 19 82

(SEAL)

Norman L. Pawlewski
STATE REGISTRAR

Don R. Coughenour
DIRECTOR

WARNING: This certificate is not valid if it has been altered in any way whatsoever or if it does not bear

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — VITAL RECORDS SECTION — STATE OF IOWA

CERTIFICATION OF DEATH

Name Anna Scouller Certif. No. 11-85-72

Date of Death September 10, 1885 19 ___ Place of Death Grant Twp., Buena Vista County

Date of Birth or Age 24 Sex Female Date Filed November 15, 1885

Cause of Death Postpartem Hemmoriage. Additional Information: Occupation, Housewife, Married, Buried at Storm Lake, Iowa on September 12, 1885.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above information was taken from the Record of Death on file in this office in accordance with the law of Iowa requiring filing of vital records.

Date November 18, 19 82

(SEAL)

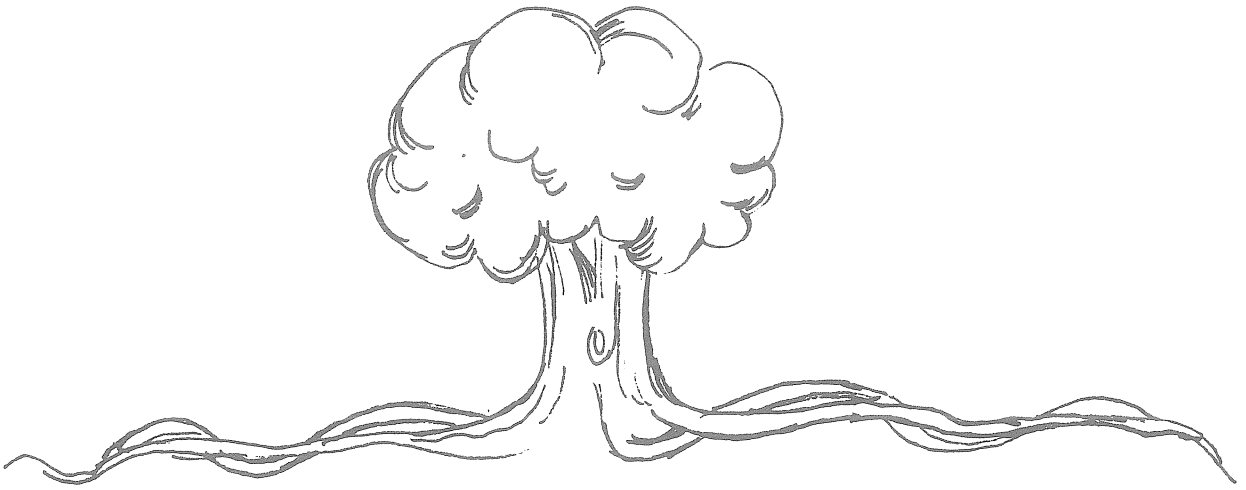
Norman L. Pawlewski
STATE REGISTRAR

Don R Coughenour
DIRECTOR

WARNING: This certificate is not valid if it has been altered in any way whatsoever or if it does not bear the raised seal of the Department of Health.

R & S No. 50
SHD-018-3/79

CP-53283 3/80

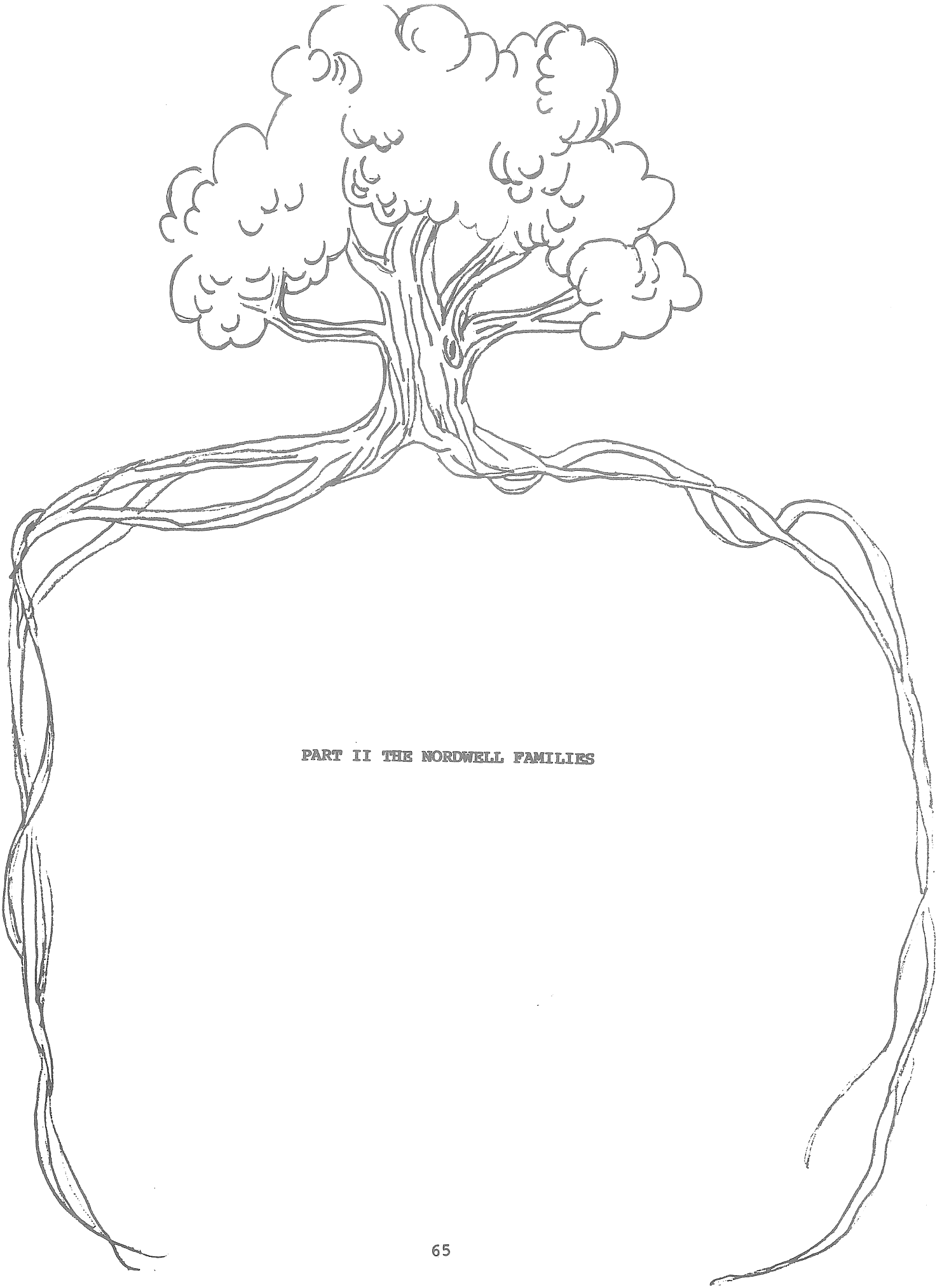


5

REBECCA RUSK TOY

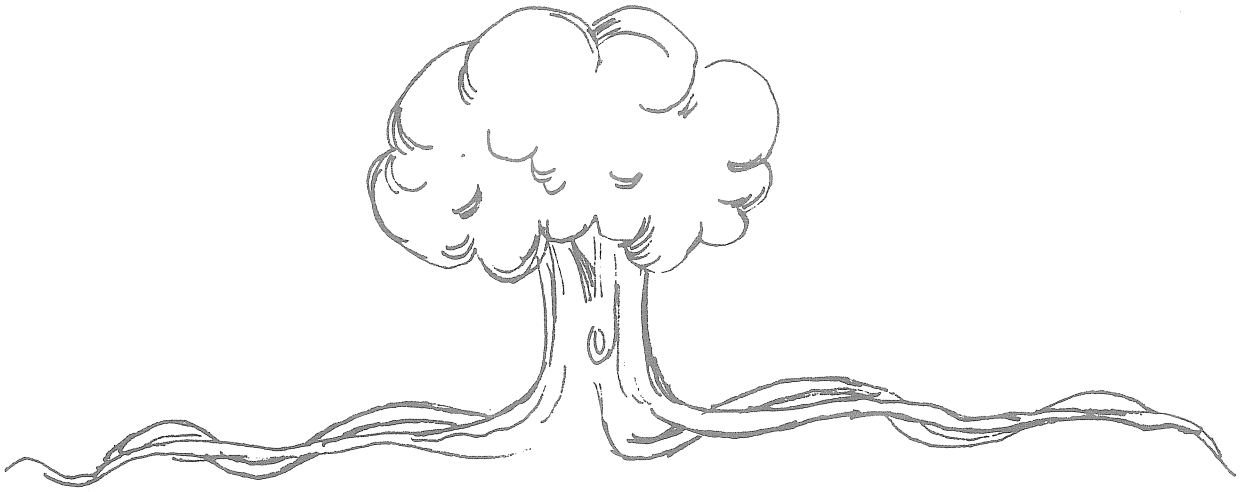
Rebecca Rusk was the wife of Neal Toy and the grandmother of Ruby, John, and Anna Scouller. What little we know of her is presented in Chapter 4. There is considerable family history and genealogy on the Rusk (Risk) family. However Elsie Eschbach and others working on this line have not been able to positively tie Rebecca to the family. This space is provided in the hope that at some later date we'll learn more of her family.

NOTES



PART II THE NORDWELL FAMILIES

NOTES



6

THE NORDWELLS IN SWEDEN

Jan Person Nordquist; Pehr Nordval; the John & Britta Olson Nordwell family--Peter John, Olaf, Carrie

Galveborg Lan, Norrby, Wiken, Galfren and Alfta are names very familiar to our Swedish ancestors. Jan Person (pronounced like Pierson) is the first known Nordwell -- he was born June 23, 1801 in Alfta and is the grandfather of John Peter Nordwell who was born in 1849 and later came to America. Galveborg is the Lan the Nordwells lived in -- its about twice the size of Yakima County. Norrby, Wiken and Galfren are towns the family lived in. All of these places are within the Alfta Parish of the State controlled Lutheran Church (see Sweden Map in this chapter).

Galveborg has beautiful rolling hills, open meadows, clustered settlements, lakes, birch and beech trees, and 3 to 4 foot junipers, as underbrush. The summers are nice but the winters can be a different story. Alfta is near the 62nd parallel which also runs between Dawson and Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory. The area is 350 miles from the Artic Circle. Still the climate is mild enough that the farming of cattle, goats and potatoes, and logging have always been a major industries.

Swedish census and parish records show the occupation of Britta, whom John married in 1874 was a Fru or wife! Johan Person Nordval; known as John Peter Nordwell after he came to America in the 1880's, was a drang and bondgard. That is, a farm hand and farmer. This may sound a little odd but that is the way the system worked for centuries under Swedish feudal lords. The large tracts of land were handed down through gentry families who controlled the land. The rural lands were farmed of course, as that was the main enterprise of the times. But in order to attract farm labor to the remote areas common people were allowed to own and farm 5 to 15 acres. The small farms were clustered together but not necessarily on the best soil. From these evolved the tiny villages or "byalags" where the Nordwells lived. In his book History of the Swedish People, Vilhelm Moberg provides a glimpse at life in small rural villages (pages 192-200). In his words:

> "The most positive aspect of the village community was its unwritten laws for mutual aid and assistance. Here their fellowship was without flaw.
>
> One remarkable feature of peasant culture was the long-vanished work feasts. All the villagers' more important tasks were carried

PEDIGREE CHART: THE NORDWELLS/OLSSON & JOHANSSON*

PEHR JOHNSSON NORDVAL
(PETER JOHN NORDWELL)
b. Sept. 6, 1874
Alfta Parish, Sweden
...Continued in Chapter 12

OLAF NORDVAL
(OLAF NORDWELL)
b. May 11, 1881
Alfta Parish, Sweden
...Continued in Chapter 11

KARIN NORDVAL
(CARRIE NORDWELL)
b. June 13, 1884
Alfta Parish, Sweden
...Continued in Chapter 10

JOHAN PERSON NORDVAL
(JOHN PETER NORDWELL)
b. Sept. 14, 1849
Norrby, Alfta Parish
Sweden
m. May 26, 1874
Arbrä Parish
d. Nov. 25, 1928
Chehalis, Wash.
USA

1st wife:
BRITTA OLSSON
b. Sept. 8, 1852
Galfren, Arbrä Parish
d. June 18, 1884
Galfren, Arbrä Parish

2nd Wife:
MARTHA JOHANSSON
b. Aug. 10, 1865
Sweden
m.
d, Oct. 21, 1942
Chehalis, Washington
USA

Daughter of
Chris Johansson

CARL NORDWALL
b. May 15, 1898
Tulsa, Oklahoma
...Continued in Chapter 9

OSCAR NORDWALL
b. May 10, 1902
Olney Springs, Colo.
...Continued in Chapter 8

PEHR JANNSON NORDVAL
b. July 14, 1826
Norrby, Alfta Parish
m. Nov. 14, 1847 Alfta

KARIN OLSSON
b. May 24, 1820
Wiken, Alfta Parish

OLAF OLSSON
b. Oct. 18, 1827
Arbra, Arbrä Parish
m. Nov. 23, 1851 Alfta
d. Jan 3, 1889
Galfren, Arbrä Parish

CARIN ANDERSSON
b. May 8, 1828
Galfren Arbrä Parish

JAN PERSON NORDQUIST
b. June 23, 1801
Alfta Parish, Sweden

CHRISTAN ERICKSON
b. July 22, 1801
Onneberge, Alfta Parish

OLAF CLEMENTSSON
b.

CATHERINA PERSSON
b. Oct. 3, 1778

OLAF OLSSON
b. Feb. 24, 1779
Galfren, Arbrä Parish
m. March 27, 1827 Alfta

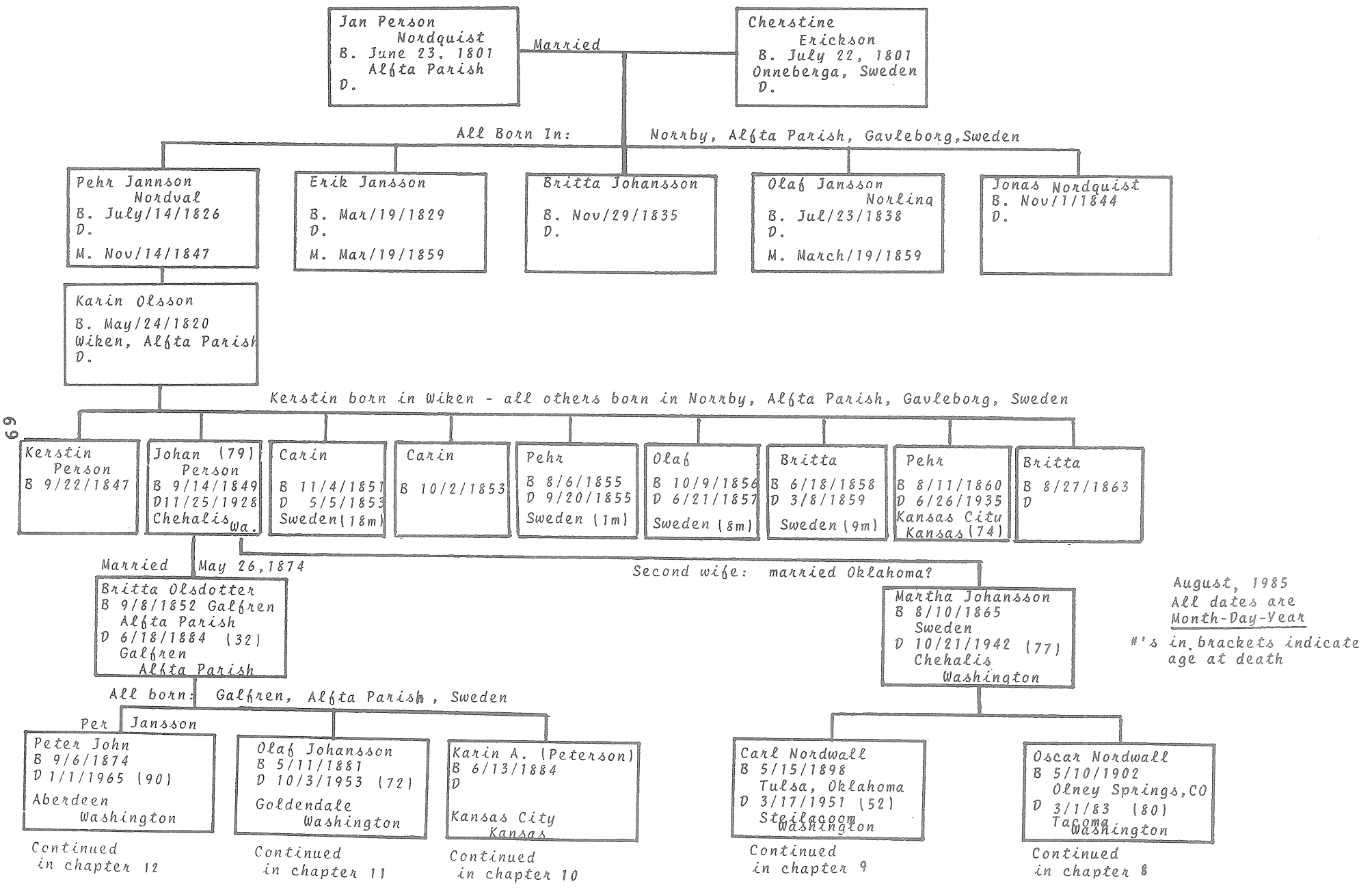
BRITTA PEHRSSON
b. Nov. 27, 1800
Alfta Parish
d. Mar. 26 1868 (67)
Galfren, Arbrä Parish

ANDERS ANDERSON
b. November 23, 1788

BRITTA OLSSON
b. March 28, 1788

August, 1985
All dates are month/day/year
#'s in brackets indicate age at death.

* All born in Sweden except Carl and Oscar Nordwall.



August, 1985
All dates are Month-Day-Year
#'s in brackets indicate age at death

out jointly, and within the 'byalag' troubles and joys, toil and merrymaking, profit and pleasure were rolled into one. These work feasts can be traced back to heathen times. They were rooted in the rational arrangement for carrying out tasks on a basis of mutual help; but in another respect, too, they served the villagers well. Work done jointly was greatly preferable to the thraldom of solitary toil. Any man who did heavy and solitary work in field or meadow was liable to be assailed by melancholy reflections or fall to pondering the sense of his lot in life.

The villagers' work feasts had many names, varying from province to province. That the Swedish word for ale ('ol') often appears in these names as a suffix witnesses to the crucial position of this most important of medieval beverages. There were 'slatterol' (haymaking feast), "taklagsol" (the feast when roof was completed on a new house), the "bykol" (when the laundry had been done) and many others. To these must be added such family occasions as the "barnsol" (on the birth and christening of a child) and "grovol" (funeral feast).

Certainly, most of the village's teamwork was therefore carried out to an accompaniment of food and drink. There was no stinginess toward participants. Amply regaled, they found relief from the plainness of their everyday fare.

In the days of the old village communities more time was devoted to livestock than to agriculture. This was above all true of those parts of the country where the farms were small. Here the meadow meant more than the ploughed field; second only was the peasant a ploughman. Little of the land attached to each farm was arable. But the hayfields, the grazing lands, the watermeads, the swamps, mires and bogs which would have to feed the cattle during the long winter, that was the vital crop. During summer the beasts were let out hoof by hoof to graze on the common lands. The big problem was how to find fodder for them during the six winter months. All grass growing on the farm fields would be cut, dried and brought into the farm as soon as the sledges could run over the snowladen ground.

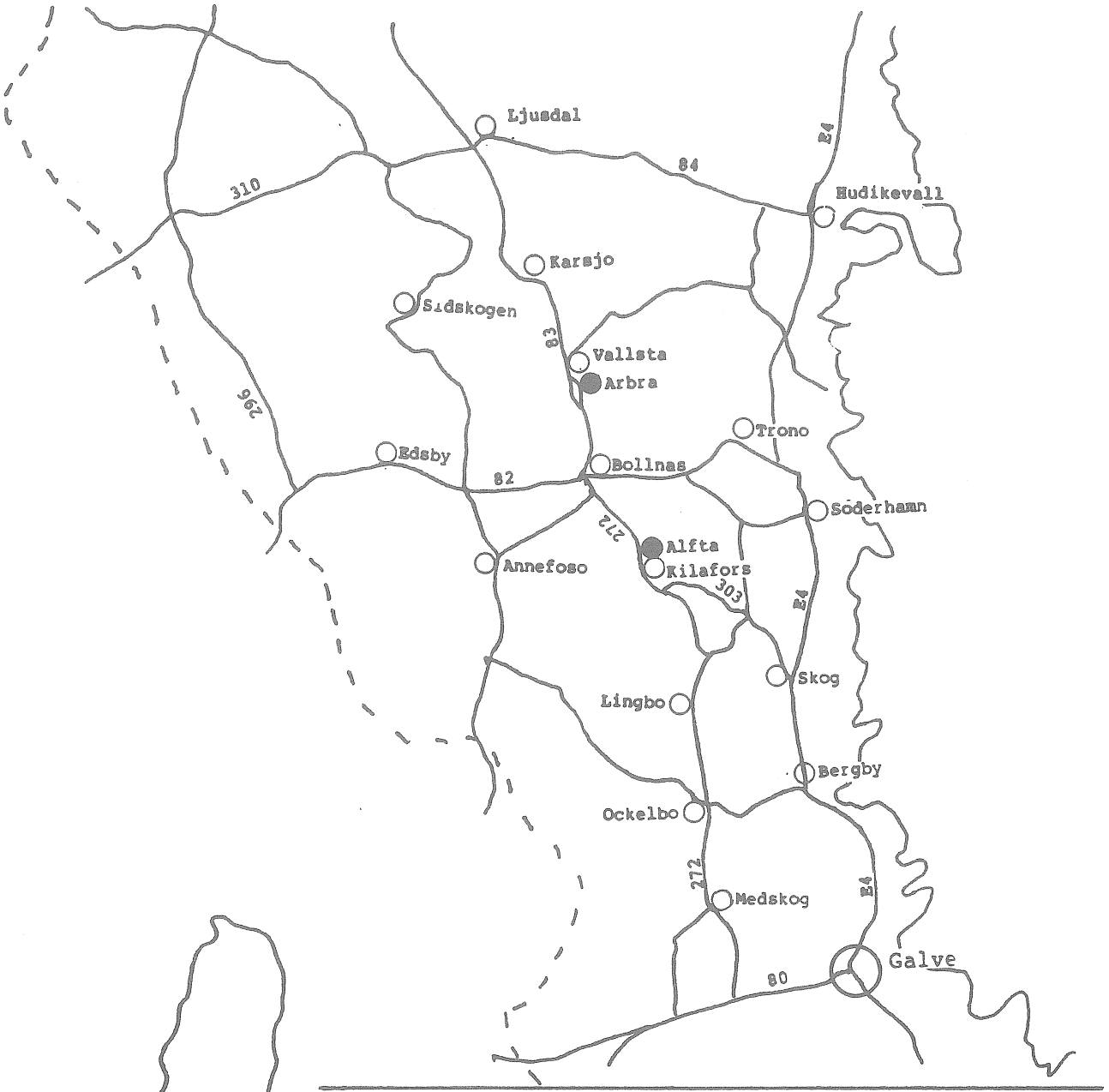
This was why, of all summer work, haymaking was the most grueling. The size of a meadow was calculated according to the number of haymakers needed to mow it in a day. To scythe a whole field was slow work. The ground was not only littered with stones but also thick with bushes and shrubs. As a boy I went haymaking with my father every weekday in July. Our small farm measured a sixteenth of a hide ('mantle'). Our scythes were for ever striking against loose stones, and this prevented us from swinging them freely. Instead we had to poke about with the point, whose edges became notched and jagged from the stones and frequently had to be rewhetted. But we had time to spare -- a whole long month. Every blade of grass was utilized for hay. Once a peasant in our village was bitten by a snake when tearing off grass he could not get at with his scythe.

The days around St Olof's Day saw the last blade of grass fall

SWEDEN

GAVLEBORGS LAN (COUNTY)

Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 15 miles



Of the Swedish places listed on the Nordwell family charts, only Arbra and Alfta are shown on maps avaialble to me. Onneberga, Norrby, Wiken and Gaffren were very small communities and whether they still exist is not known. All were in either the Alfta or the Arbra parish and thus are likely in this vicinity. Parishes were small as there were over 2000 up to 1950 when consolidation began. Today there are only about 200 parishes.

to the scythe. By St Olof's Mass, the 29th of the haymaking month, all haymaking had to be finished, and in the evening of the last of July the hay feast was held. It was the time of year when the contents of the storehouse were beginning to be exhausted. By then the mistress of the household would be sweeping up the last flour left in the bin and scraping the pork barrel for this great summer feast. For then the workpeople would have to be plenteously regaled with food and drink. Dancing and games in barns or on rock ledges were all part of the feast, which went on all night long. Finally, towards morning and long after sunrise, a flock of weary haymakers went off home to bed. They had been working hard; but also enjoyed themselves. Toil had blended with merry-making.

. . . cheese making is never the men's work, but the women's. From divers villages in that province they gather in summer at the home of her, whose intent it is to make cheese. Now the milk is boiled in great kettles, rennet is added, and the content pressed in great wooden forms, mostly four-sided. -- But no man is thought worthy to be present at this women's work, and should any beg admittance, it were in vain.

The 'byalag', as a social assistance organization, was always at work. Its care for individuals began at birth and ended only with death.

The closed conformist peasant society, however, had one serious drawback for young marriageables: the narrow choice of partner. Contacts with people outside its little closely-confined world were rare. People living in other parishes were 'foreigners', and regarded with suspicion. For this reason extra-parochial marriages were rare. The elective scope of persons hankering after marriage was limited perhaps a radius of half a dozen miles. Further, marriage was usually determined by the size of homestead. The parties ought to be approximately each other's equal in respect to property."

The byalags have been traced back more than a thousand years and existed in many areas into the 1900's. These villages were small; sometimes fewer than 20 families. I haven't been able to find all the villages where the Nordwells reportedly lived on any maps. Perhaps they are extinct. Moberg on page 264, related his 1970 trip to the countryside and remorsed at an apparent end of an era:

". . . everywhere the villagers' dwellings seemed empty and deserted. Out of doors not a soul was to be seen. No one was scything the meadow. The fields with their deciduous trees, once kept alive by cow-muzzle and scythe, had all disappeared. Nor was anyone at work in the plough fields, where clumps of spruces were spreading out."

The small farms offered at best a humble existence. Most of the farmers, like John apparently did, also hired out as a farmhand. Typically each hired hand was assigned a specific section of the farm. This was done for a small

wage; sometimes on a share-crop basis, and sometimes for the right to pasture their cows or goats in the summer so they could hay their field at home. The Nordwells, from the 1820 and probably before, were in this farmer byalag life until John came to America. John married Britta Olsson and they had three children; Peter, Olaf and Carrie. Britta died June 18, 1884, five days after Carrie was born.



John Peter Nordval. Sweden, 1880's?



Britta Olsson Nordval. Sweden, 1880's?

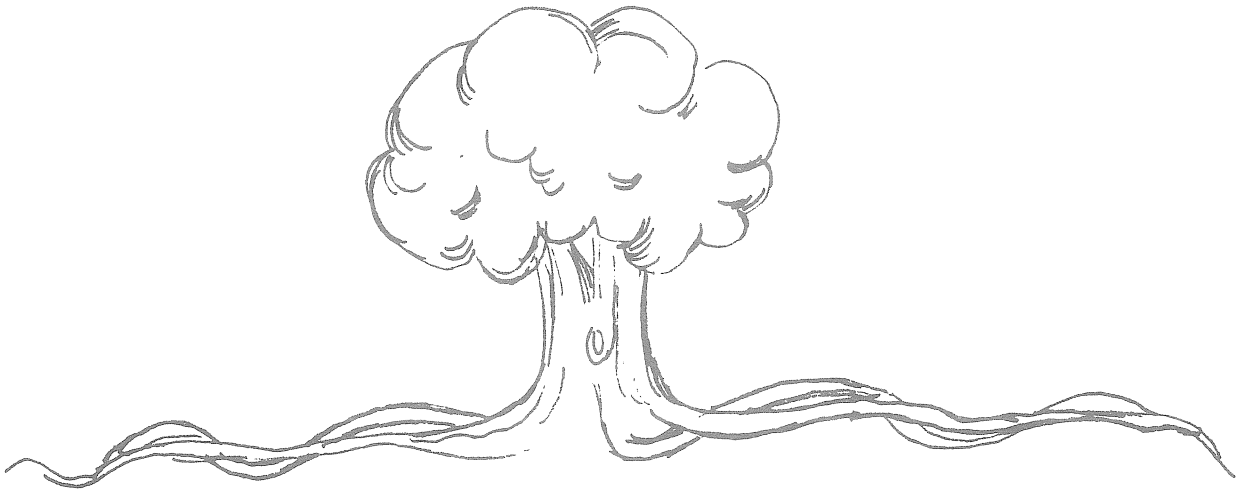
The Name Changed

The Nordwells of today are a part of the Nordquist family in the late 1700's. Between these two names have been two other name changes. Swedish names sort of evolved in the early days. Originally the population was small enough that people had only one name. Then as the population expanded figuring out who's who wasn't easy so people took a second name when they got older. Usually the name described something about the person -- long beard etc. That was pretty informal and eventually got confusing too, so the government decided to go the sons and daughter (dotter) route. That is the last name of the son of Jan was to be Jansson; the son of Per, Person; the daughter of Ols, Olsdotter. This system meant that each generation had a different last name than the generation before. Still it worked. But in the late 1700's with the population about three million and growing fast there were just too many Olsons, Johansons, and the like. Take a close look at the Nordwell family charts and you'll see what was happening. So in the 1800's families were encouraged to keep the name they had or adopt a name from the environment that would become the family name. The Per Jansson born in 1801 took the name Nordquist. He and his wife Cerstine Ersdotter had at least five children (see Chart). Jonas kept the Nordquist name, while Olaf became a Norling and Per switched to Nordval. Nordquist translates to north limb or branch of a tree, while Nordval means north pasture. Could it be that Per, the farmhand worked the north pasture?

The next name to appear was Nordwall which was apparently the Americanization of Nordval. Nordwall can be found on property deeds, birth certificates, and other official documents up until 1915 or so. Hazel was born a Nordwall in 1905 and an Olaf "Nordwall" married Olive White in 1910. During the next 10 years Nordwell evolved. Olaf had said that no formal change was made; the family just liked the new version and started using it.

NOTES

NOTES



7

JOHN NORDWELL & FAMILY IN THE U.S.A.

Pete, Olaf, Carrie & Martha, Carl, Oscar
(See family chart in Chapter 6)

Sweden like Scotland, Ireland and other European nations became overpopulated in the 1800's. The county was still agrarian and everything on the farm was still done by hand and back. In addition all the tillable land was already in use, so Sweden food production could not be expanded as rapidly as the population. Sweden had crop failures. Not nearly as severe as Ireland's but bad enough to cause hardships.

With the advent of steamships in the mid-1800's international trade blossomed. Wheat and other grains, much of it grown by mid-western Swedes in America, flooded European markets. The imports knocked Swedish farm prices drastically even when Sweden had a crop failure. For the Nordwells the low prices probably meant a cutback on an already meager existence.

Another aspect of rural life was that the size of the small farms kept getting smaller, reduced through government reforms and subdivisions via inheritance, gifts and outright sale. For many families the prospect of their sons owning a parcel large enough to sustain a family was gone.

Thousands of Swedish families opted for the promise of America. By the 1880's when the Nordwells left Sweden the industrial revolution was just beginning. Non-farm jobs were becoming available in shipyards, railroad construction, and in the coal mines. These jobs, however, meant giving up a way of life; that is, making a living from the soil and being your own boss. More importantly, these new jobs within Sweden's class structure, were a step down from that of farming. Not a step easily taken by proud people. There were other factors which also contributed to emigration during the 1880's. Some wanted religious freedom; Sweden, then, as now, had a State Church. For others, required military service was a factor. Historians, however, appear to be in full agreement that economic conditions, overpopulation, and the lack of farmable land were by far the most important factors for those who left during the 1880's. As a note of interest, the Swedish government and the clergy officially opposed emigration. During the 1880's, Sweden was on the brink of industrialization and emigration meant the loss of labor needed for industrial expansion. As a result, in the 1890's and 1900's, Sweden drew people in from other countries to replace those that left.

The 1880's was the height of "American Fever" in Sweden with 40,000 to 50,000 leaving every year. Over all, 1.2 million Swedes left between 1850 and 1930. The lure must have been great for so many to leave their home district, let alone their country. By the 1880's the emigration business was in full swing. Europe was flooded with information of America, the promise land. States, railroads, steamship companies and others promoted America. In Sweden, the press ran a "Letter from America" column which was very popular. For the Nordwells, and others with relatives already in America, personal letters from the States were even more of a pull. John's brother Pehr (Peter Nordwall) who was born in 1860 apparently came first and had lived in Kansas City, Kansas at least 48 years at the time of his death on May 26, 1935.

John and Britta Nordval farmed near Galfren and had three children Per, Olaf and Karin; or as they were known in America: Peter, Olaf and Carrie. Not long after Britta died in June 1884 the family came to America. Peter, on his 1910 application for U.S. Citizenship said he came to America in 1887. Bonnie Barton, Oscar Nordwell's daughter who lived on the Nordwell's Newaukum Valley farm indicates her grandmother Martha said that John came by himself while the three kids stay with Martha's parents, who were friends and neighbors. Bonnie also got the impression that Martha came to the U.S. with the kids when John sent for them. If they came separately, my guess is that John came over sometime after Britta's death in 1884 and sent for the kids who departed in May of 1887. Such an arrangement was apparently typical. Lars Ljungmark in his book Swedish Exodus (1979, Pg. 86) put it in these words:

> "Deciding where to settle was an important step for Swedish farm families, and many of them sent one or two relatives ahead to scout out possibilities and make arrangements for the rest to follow. In most cases the responsibility fell to the husband or oldest son who went to work for the railroad or lumber companies to earn ticket money for the immediate family."

Wages in America were about twice what they were in Sweden. On page 95 Lar Ljungmark. added:

> "Infact, families became something of an undesirable burden during an emigrants first years in America."

When the Nordwells emigrated, most of those leaving did so as individuals or as families. Prior to 1870, most Swedish emigration was by groups who established Swedish-American settlements principally in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Martha's parents, the Chris Johansons, were poor like the Nordwells and coming up with money to send Martha was probably difficult. Martha came to America with hopes of getting jobs. Before she left home her mother made her a doll out of an old sock, she also gave her a small copper cream pot to keep her money in.

By 1880, steamships were plying the Atlantic having replaced the sailships. Competition became intensive with at least ten companies shuttling Europeans to America (this competition brought prices down drastically and made the trip affordable to nearly everyone). The trip took from ten to twelve days and the routes were well established. Martha Nordwell and the kids caught a boat from Gavle, which is about 50 miles from Alfta, for a two-day hop to Hull, England. On this leg, they had to furnish their own food. Once in England, it was a train trip south to Liverpool, which was the central port of departure for northern Europeans. On May 17, 1887, the Nordwells boarded a ship for their new home. The cramped ships were shared with other nationalities, but not always graciously. There were language problems, discrimination, and outright bad blood among many nationalities. Feelings got so strong, in fact, that by 1885, the ship operators no longer put the Swedes and the Irish in the same area of the ship.

Martha remembered the trip well. For the obvious reasons and also because of a painfully ulcerated tooth. A few days out to sea the tooth was pulled the hard way -- with no painkiller.

New York, Boston and Quebec were the three main ports of entry for European immigrants to the U.S. The Nordwells, after a stop in Quebec, entered the U.S. at Buffalo, New York on May 30, 1887 five weeks before the celebration of the summer. The nation was young and Memorial day and Labor Day didn't come about until after World War I. Few communities had their own festivals yet. Everybody, everywhere went all out for the Fourth of July with large picnics, long winded political speakers and fireworks. Olaf got caught up in his first Fourth in the U.S. He had mentioned to his son, Melburn, of the excitement and his first fireworks.

Once on American soil they are thought to have settled in Swedish communities in the upper midwest. They most likely went by train. By the 1870's "special" emigration trains were moving people west. They were special in that they catered to emigrants and had interpreters on board. Train travel was fast for its times but took up to four days to get from New York to Chicago. Each day there were three stops for meals plus the regular stops. Once off the train it was by horse, wagon, or stagecoach to their new home.

In the late 1880's and into the 1900's over sixty percent of the Swedish emigrants were single adults and well over half of these were female. The reason was the demand for maids in American households. During this era even middle class families could afford a live-in domestic. Martha, who was 21(?), when she arrived went to work for a Wisconsin family with three teenage daughters. Their home was very modern and lit with the latest gas and kerosene lamps. Martha had mentioned to her granddaughter, Bonnie Nordwell Barton, of her house work and ironing petticoats late at night with a sad iron. Typically maids like Martha were treated as part of the family but had to be the first up in the morning to rekindle the fire, get breakfast and so on. In short, they did most, if not all the house work. For many it also meant a chance to save money and learn the language. Martha saved a few dollars but learned little, if any, English. Her employer may have also been

Swedish. She didn't learned her broken English until her sons, Carl and Oscar, were going to school.

Just where in the upper midwest John and his three children settled is unclear. Winnie Stevens, Olaf's daughter, recalls hearing about North Dakota and a sod house. Olaf has also mentioned that they stayed pretty much in Swedish American communities in their first few years here. So much so, that the kids learned most of their english from local sheepherders.

Within a few years the family headed south. Winnie had heard about Kansas. John's brother, Peter (Pehr on the family chart) came to America before John, and settled near Kansas City. It is thought that Carrie, then somewhere between seven and ten years old, stayed in Kansas with her uncle when John and the two boys moved to what is now Oklahoma City. Again they moved. This time to a farm near Tulsa. Apparently they moved to Oklahoma in the winter. Olaf had talked about that first winter and how they shared a long house with an Indian family. The Nordwells at one end, their host at the other, with blankets hung between.

At this time, Oklahoma was one of the few places west of the Rockies not yet settled. The area was receiving glowing reports for its mild winters, fertile soil, and great opportunity. It drew homesteaders from the harsh climates up north, as well as from Europe. Oklahoma, a part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1804 did not become a state until 1907, a full 18 years after Washington became a state.

In the 1820's the five major Indian tribes of the Eastern United States were being marched to Oklahoma, their new homeland. After the Civil War, cattleman and a few homesteaders moved into the area. To the cattlemen, Oklahoma was a dream. There were mild winters and with the buffalo all but gone, year around pasturing was possible without any haying or tilling of the soil. For land, the cattlemen had ranches, but relied heavily on the millions of acres of unused Indian lands. The Indians lived along the streams and needed very little land for their gardens and small herds of cattle. So, for free or a small fee, the cattle could graze on lush buffalo grass.

By 1885, a campaign to open the unused Indian lands to homesteaders was in full swing and pressure on Congress mounted steadily each year. The Boomers, as the homesteaders were called, won the battle with the cattlemen and Congress authorized the first of several famous Oklahoma land rushed for April 22, 1889.

Peter Nordwell had mentioned to Warren Kingery that he watched a land rush when he was 19. This would place him at the 200,000 acre Kickapoo land rush of May 23, 1895. It was the fifth and last actual "land rush." Six later land openings were done by lottery or by allotment. The land rushes were getting out of hand. There were three times as many rushers as there were homesteads available. Peter wanted to go on the rush that day, but his dad thought better of it. To rush, you had to be age 21, pay a $10 fee and show intent of becoming a U.S. citizen, So, he spent the day on the sidelines

watching from his saddle horse and longing to join in. He had also mentioned to Warren that he was glad he had not gone to the rush. Whether he was looking back on his life in general or referring to the devastation he would have faced during the droughts and "dust bowls" of the 1930's, is not known.

The Oklahoma sod busters were mainly self-sufficient farms with a work horse or two, some beef, a milk cow, chickens, a garden, and always a dream of prosperity. Most of the early settlers lived in their wagons or in a tent if they had one until they could build a house. Since trees were few and far between, it took money and lumber to build a conventional house. To many a sod house was a luxury. The importance of the livestock to the family often meant that a wood barn took priority over a "fancy" house. It apparently took up to $1,000 to buy cattle, a few implements, lumber and other items to establish an "operational" homestead. In other words, it took a lot of money considering wages were barely a dollar a day. Obviously, most did with less.

Everyday life in Oklahoma meant hard work and not much excitement. Pete and Olaf apparently spent their teenage years and early 20's working at home and riding the range for extra money. Many Oklahoma homesteaders, and would-be homesteaders, cowpunched for the money and waited for the opportunity to be on their own land.

One of Pete's most unforgettable days was when he and a friend were out on the range. They had a run-in with a desperato. The guy could not have been very nice, as he carried a $500 reward and was wanted dead or alive. A posse was out after him at the time. The desperato came over a hill where they were. Shots were fired and they wounded the guy's horse. Pete said that they could have shot the guy but just couldn't do it. So, he got away but they had slowed him down and he was caught by the posse.

Olaf had described more serene aspects of Oklahoma life to his grandson, Nick Nordwell. Olaf always loved to hunt and fish. His most notable companion was Captain Rogers, an uncle of humorist/philosopher Will Rogers.

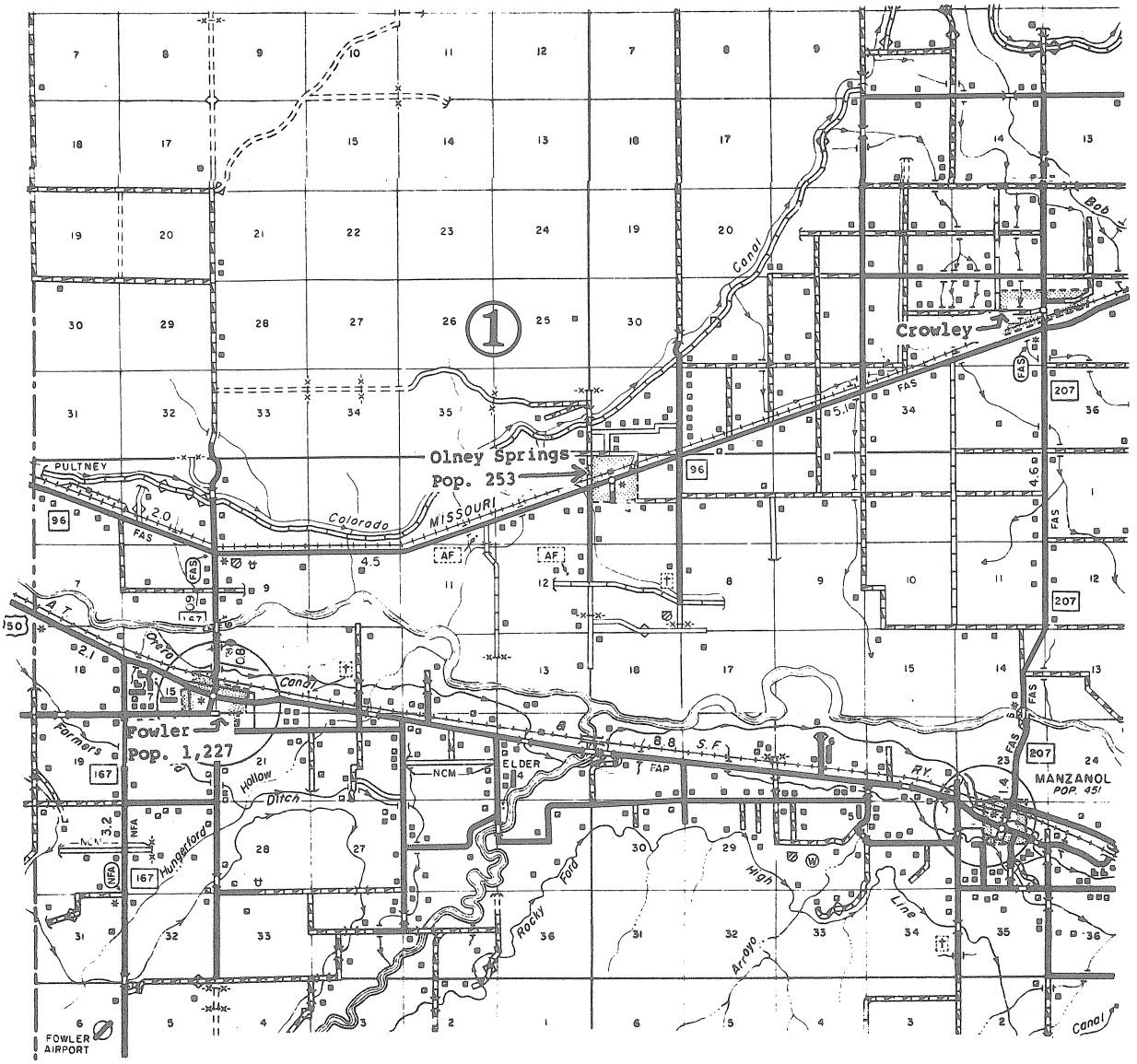
Just when and where John and Martha got married is not clear. I wasn't able to locate the license. Bonnie believes that while in Oklahoma, John hired Martha to help with the house work and that they were married in the 1890's. Their first child, Carl, was born in Tulsa on May 15, 1898.

Actually Carl may not have been their first born. The birth certificate of their second child, Oscar, indicates he was their fourth child, not their second. Apparently two others were born alive but died young, though Martha had never mentioned them to Bonnie.

Around 1900 the family moved to an alfalfa farm 30 miles east of Pueblo, Colorado near Olney Springs. Oscar was born there on May 10, 1902. Martha said the house was run down and loaded with bed bugs when they moved in. This was the first time she had ever seen bed bugs, and they were trying to take over the house. She ended that nonsense by pouring boiling water around the mop boards and windows. Martha said Colorado also had rattle snakes and she

OLNEY SPRINGS, COLORADO

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



(1) **John P. Nordwell** is believed to have farmed in this area around 1900, but no specific property has been identified. The birthplace of Oscar Nordwell in 1902.

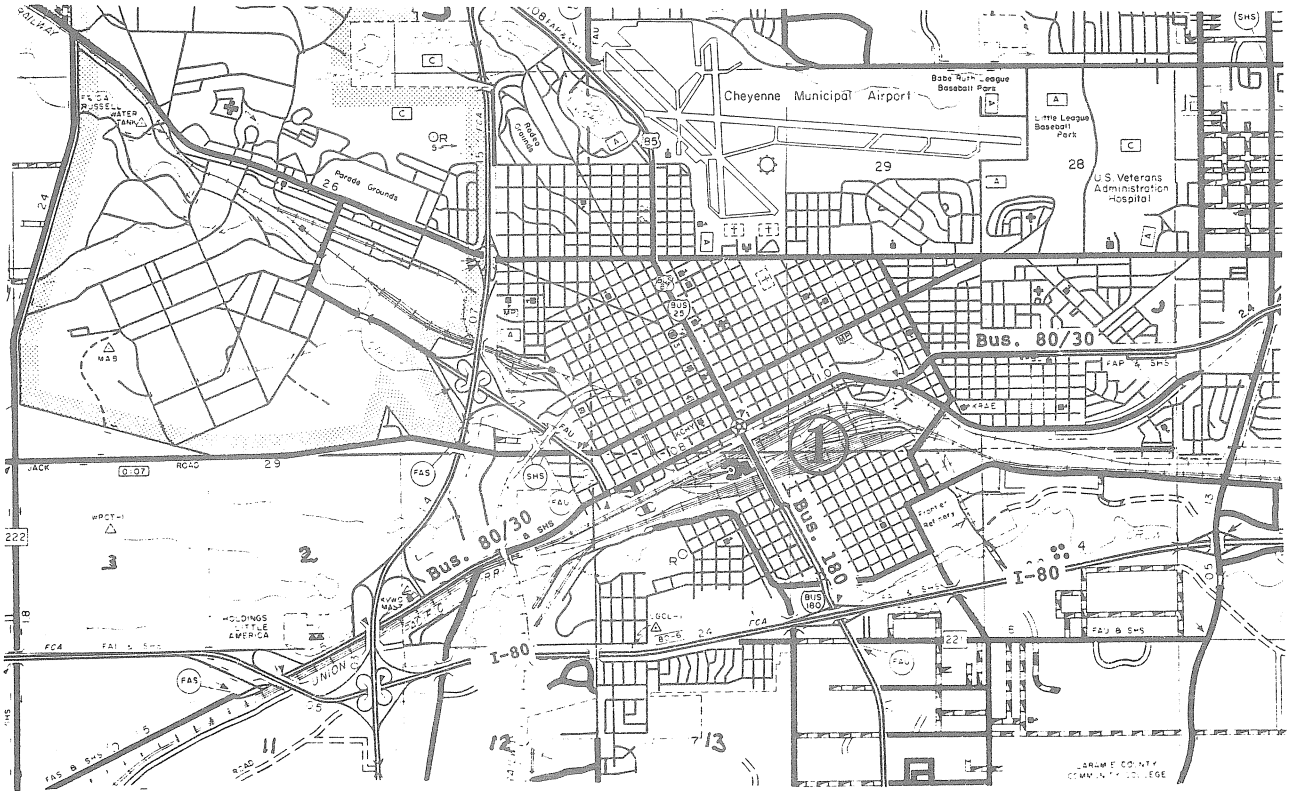
Directions:

saw one about to strike young Oscar. She shortened the snakes life by killing it with a hoe.

It is unclear if Peter, then 25 or so, was with the family in Colorado. Peter had told his grandson Hugh Mason of a section of land, 640 acres, he had in Wyoming about this time. He spoke of farming and operating a freight and stage line while there. The coming of the railroad brought an end to his transportation business. He departed for Washington State. He left his place and power of attorney to sell the property in Wyoming. Eventually, he got $150 for it. That land later became the home of the Cheyenne Railroad Station and Railroad Yard. Hugh recalls his grandfather telling him about a return visit to Cheyenne in the 1930's. Pete told a Cheyenne realtor that he was a Washington farmer thinking about moving to the area. He was chauffeured about. After three days he had seen everything he wanted and left. His comment to Hugh upon his return and apparently reminiscing about what could have been, was that "I got something out of the damned place." (Two inquires I sent out to search the specific location and dates of this property were not answered.)

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Approximately 1 inch = 9 miles



(1) **Peter J. Nordwell** spoke of having a farm, around 1900, where the railroad yard in Cheyenne is located today. This has not been verified as a request for information has gone unanswered.

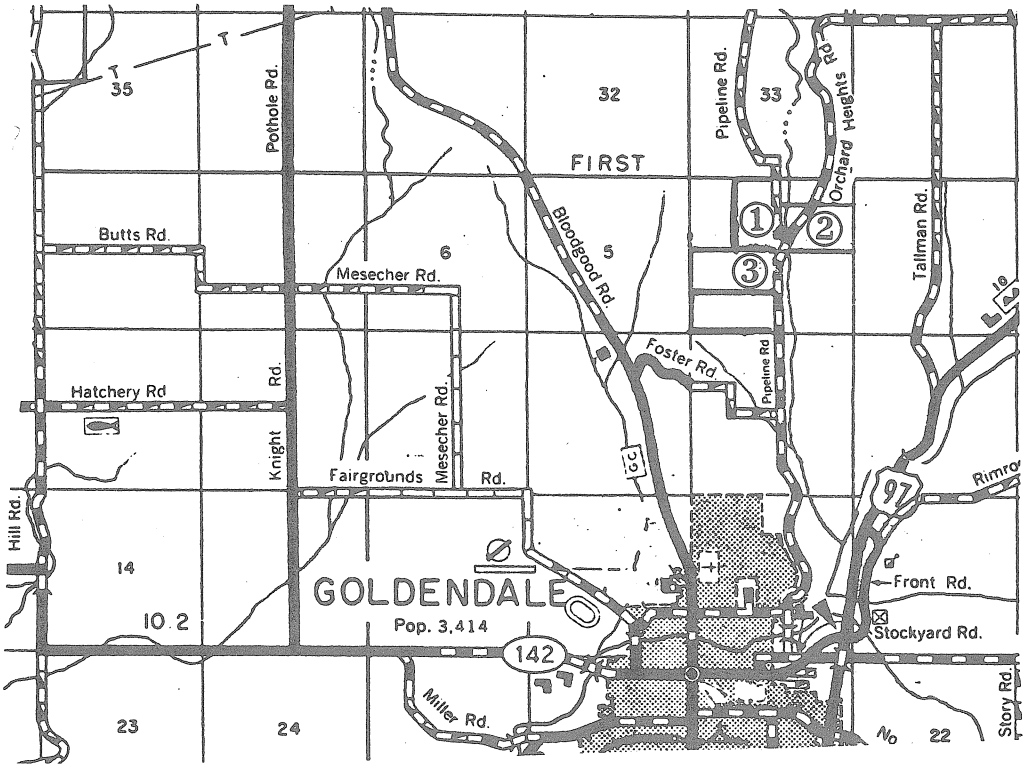
Directions:

From the eastern edge of the Rockies the Nordwells moved to Goldendale, Washington. According to his citizenship papers Peter arrived on July 7, 1901. The rest of the family is thought to have came out in 1903. Just where Pete lived is not clear but he is thought to have farmed and ran a freight business. He had spoke of the business and told stories of hauling freight from Goldendale into Oregon across the ice. Yes, across the ice! Before the Columbia was dammed, the winter would freeze the river for up to two months, sometimes enough to take a team of horses and a loaded wagon across. At other times, just enough for a bob sled.

John and his family settled north of town near the Scouller farm. On March 11, 1903 John paid $800 cash to Agnes Scouller for 80 acres she had across the road from her brother

GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **John P. Nordwell's** 80 acre farm purchased from **Agness Scouller** in 1903 for $800. . . . west of Pipeline Rd. at the Junction of Pipeline and Orchard Heights roads.

② **John P. Nordwell's** 119 acre purchase of Public Lands in 1909. . . . is directly east of ① .

③ **John P. Nordwell's** 160 acre Homestead granted in 1912, after the family moved to western Washington?? Property seems to overlap with ① immediately south of ①, west of Pipeline Road.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Goldendale map in Chapter 11.

44

Agnes Scoulller To John P.Nordwell.

VOL P DEEDS Warranty Deed.

This Indenture made the Eleventh day of March A.D.I903, by and between Agnes Scoulller (single) Goldendale, of Klickitat County, Washington, party of the first part, and John P. Nordwoll, Goldendale of the same County and State, party of the second part,

Witnesseth: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Eight hundred ($800.00) Dollars, to me in hand paid, by the said party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does by these presents grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever, the following described premises, situate, lying and being in the county of Klickitat and State of Washington, to-wit;

The East half (E½) of the North West quarter (NW¼) of Section Four (4) Township Four (4) North, Range Sixteen (16) E.W.M. containing Eighty (80) acres.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

To Have and to Hold, the same unto the said John P.Nordwell, and to his heirs and assigns forever; and she does hereby covenant with the said grantee his heirs and assigns, that at the date hereof she ~~xkkk~~ is well seized in fee simple of the premises above conveyed, and she will and her heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the title thereto against the lawful claims or demands of any person or persons whomsoever.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of March A.D.I903.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:) Agnes Scoulller. (Seal)
W.B.Presby.)
E.H.Hartwig. Witnesses.)

State of Washington,)
)ss.
County of Klickitat,)

I, W.B.Presby, a Notary Public in and for the State of Washington do hereby certify that on this 11th.day of March I903, personally appeared before me Agnes Scoulller, an unmarried lady to me known to be the individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged that she executed the same as her free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Given under my hand and official seal this 11th.day of March A.D.I903.

(L.S.(W.B.Presby.
Notary Public for Washington, residing at
Goldendale, Washington.

Filed for record, March 18th.I903 at 8:00 A.M.

J.K.Smith
County Auditor.

390 V

VOL 9 PATENT John P. Nordwall.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CERTIFICATE No. -------
Vancouver 0266.

To all to whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, John P. Nordwall *has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at* Vancouver, Washington *whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said* John P. Nordwall *according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled, "An Act making further provisions for the Sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the*

South half of the Northeast quarter and the fractional Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section four in Township four North of Range sixteen East of the Willamette Meridian, Washington, containing One Hundred Nineteen and Seventy-six-hundredths acres

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said John P. Nordwall

NOW, KNOW YE, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, unto the said John P. Nordwall *and to* his *heirs, the said tract above described:*

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said John P. Nordwall *and to* his *heirs and assigns, forever, subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode, to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law, and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I William H. Taft *, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.*

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twenty-second *day of* March *, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and* nine *, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and* thirty-third.

UNITED STATES GENERAL LAND OFFICE SEAL

By the President Wm. H. Taft.

By M.W. Young. *Secretary.*

H.W. Sanford.
Recorder of the General Land Office.

Patent Number 52910.

Recorded Washington Vol. *Page*

Filed for Record at the request of J.P. Nordwall *at* 1:12 *o'clock* P.M.,

July 23rd., *A. D. 19* 09.

By *Deputy.*

Delbert Gunning
County Auditor.

The United States of America,

Vancouver 0265

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No.

Application

WHEREAS, There has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Vancouver, Washington whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of John P. Nordwall has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the North half of the Southwest quarter, the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter and the fractional Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section Four in Township four North of Range Sixteen East of the Willamette Meridian, Washington, containing one hundred sixty and twentyfour hundredths acres

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said John P. Nordwall the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said John P. Nordwall and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law. And there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, William H. Taft, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

UNITED STATES GENERAL LAND OFFICE SEAL

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ten and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty fifth

By the President: Wm. H. Taft

By M. P. LeRoy, Secretary.
H. W. Sanford
Recorder of the General Land Office.

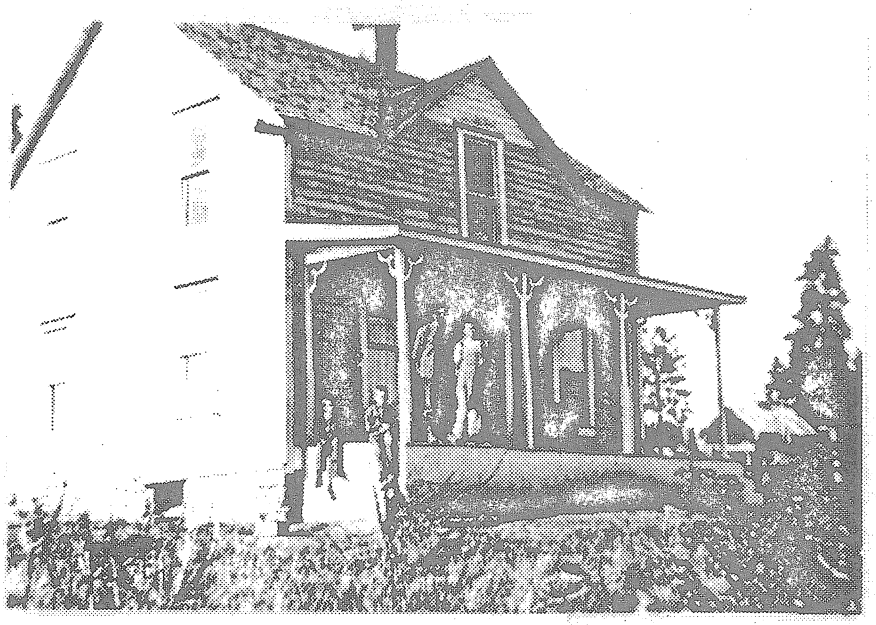
Recorded Patent Number 148305 Vol. , Page

Filed for Record this 30th day of August, 1912, at 10 minutes past 8 o'clock, A.M.

87

A. W. Cunning County Auditor.

By Deputy.



John Nordwell's Goldendale home
On porch: Oscar, Carl, John, Martha

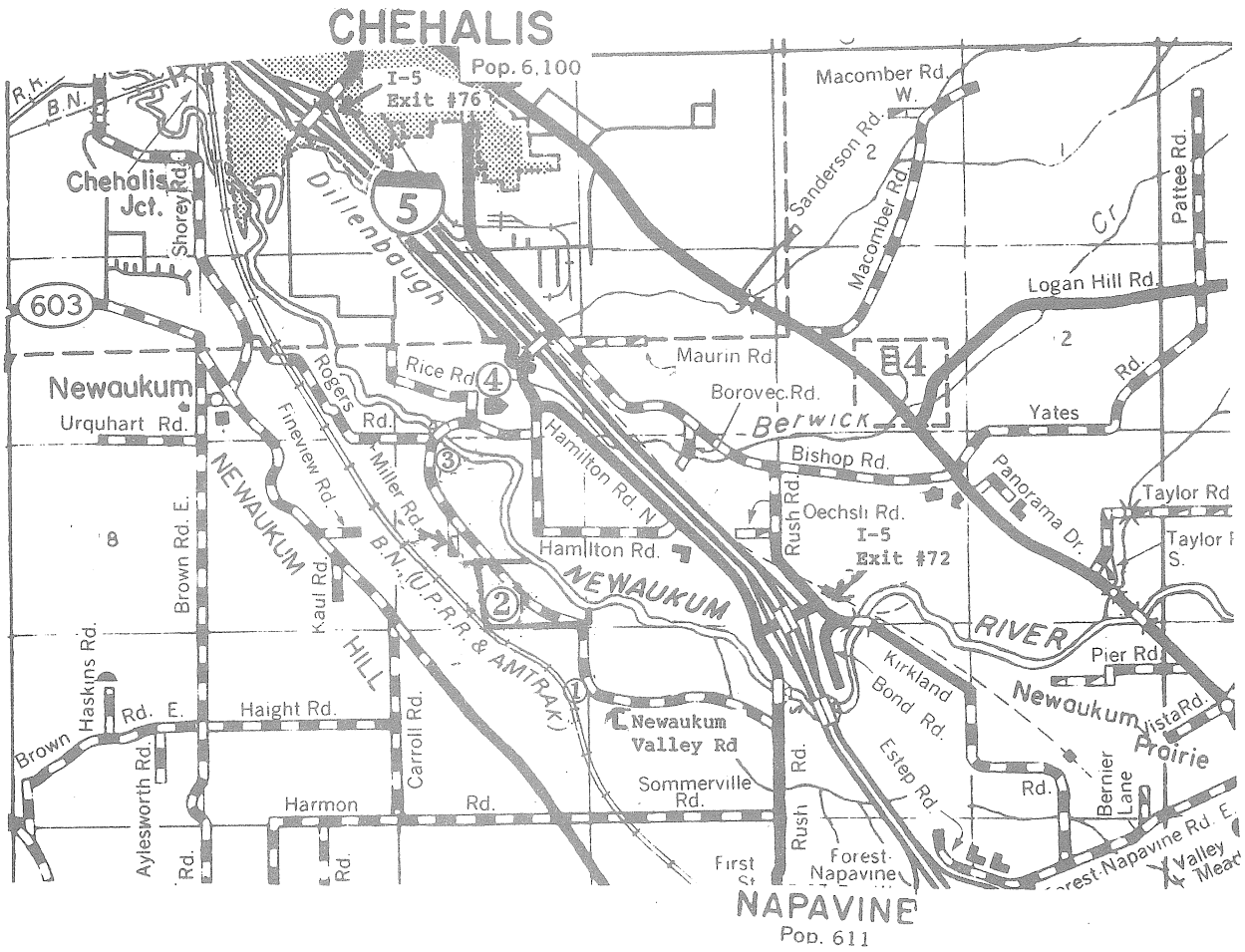
While there, John's older kids went their own way. Pete married Ruby Scouller, their story continues in Chapter 12. Olaf married Olive White, the daughter of a retired Portland barber living west of town. Their story continues in Chapter 11. Carrie was in Kansas City, Kansas where her Uncle Peter Nordwell was living. Her story continues in Chapter 10.

Early in 1910 John and his family pulled up their stakes for a final time when they moved to western Washington. For $4,000 cash, John bought a 160 acre farm in the Newaukum Valley south of Chehalis (see Newaukum Valley Map). They settled into the very roomy 2 story, 6 bedroom house. Apparently Pete, Ruby and their 3 young ones, Hazel, John and William moved to the farm at the same time or soon after. In April, 2 year old John died of diphtheria at the farm. Later that year Pete and Ruby moved onto Montesano.

Eight years before John bought the property the notorious Harry Tracy shot and killed his double crossing and fellow fugitive David Merrill. Tracy, once a member of Butch Cassidy's gang, went on to become a famous bank robber

NEWAUKUM VALLEY, WASHINGTON
(NEAR CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON)

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



(1) Location where **David Merrill's** body was found in July 1902, after being shot by fellow fugitive and robber Harry Tracy. Found in front of what is now Art Mueller's home at 400 Newaukum Valley Rd.

(2) **John and Martha Nordwell's** 160 acre farm; from December 1910 into the 1930's. Upon John's death, the property was divided between their sons, Carl and Oscar.

(3) Site of **Country Poor Farm** during the depression.

(4) **Two-room school** where Carl, Oscar and, later, Bonnie attended.

Directions: A loop trip. Take I-5 Exit 72 four miles south of Chehalis. Go west onto Rush Rd as if going to Napavine. Go ½ mile and turn right onto the Newaukum Valley Rd. 1.3 miles down the road the Nordwell property starts . . . about 100 feet before mail box #343. The property ends about 100 feet before the power lines. Carl farmed the south half and lived in the white house at what is now Box 343 west of the Road. Oscar built and lived in the house on the river bank at what is now Box 272. Continue on the road, stay right and go across the bridge. Turn left onto the Rice Rd. The two-room school sits on the right at the first 90° corner. This road winds for 2 miles and returns to I-5 at Exit #76 and Chehalis.

in his own right. The 1983 movie "Harry Tracy, Desperato" depicts Tracy and Merrill's exploits but gave the impression they met their end in Canada. Wrong. Merrill was shot on the property just south of what later became the Nordwell's Newaukum farm (see Map). The body was found on July 14th, though he was shot around June 28th, 1902 and Harry's fate occurred on August 6, 1902 near Davenport, Washington.

Harry Tracy was still a topic of conversation when the Nordwells arrived. The road to the farm was upland, near the railroad tracks. Later John and the other farmers donated right of way to the county so they could build a road that followed the river . . . the Newaukum-Miller Road. It was a dirt dust bowl for years, then graveled and finally paved.

Carl was 12 and Oscar 8 when they moved to the Newaukum farm in 1910. They attended a two room school about a mile from home and across the river. Both went through the eight grade there and like most kids didn't go onto high school. Bonnie went to the first grade there also. The school stands today and is used for church gatherings and other community functions (see Map).

John, Martha and the two boys cleared the farm and expanded its tillable acreage gradually. John had put in an orchard next to the house. Carl and Oscar stay near the farm for years and didn't go their own ways until the late 1920's. Carl's story continues in Chapter 9 and Oscar's in Chapter 8.

Neither John nor Martha took out U.S. citizenship. Martha spoke english but John stuck with Swedish. He learned a few sociable words like hello and thank you but that was about it. This created awkward times for their non-Swedish friends and relatives. Ruby, John's daughter-in-law apparently was seldom thrilled to visit the in-law's and the prospect of being left out of half the conversations.

John Peter lived to be 79, passing away on November 25, 1928. After his death the farm was divided between the two boys. Carl built a house on his share and Oscar and his daughter Bonnie lived with Martha in the original house. In the 1930's Oscar built Martha a small house next to the farm house and the rest of Oscar's share was sold to Frank Mueller.

Martha worked hard on the farm and at raising the family. For several years, while in her 60's, she raised Bonnie, Oscar's daughter. Bonnie recalls that she spoke english well but with a definitive Swedish accent. Bonnie always knew when she was in trouble. She'd hear her grandmother speaking emotionally in pure Swedish! Martha was active and for years belonged to the local garden club. She loved flowers and gardening.

Martha lived on her little place until 1939 when she became unable to take care of herself. She fell several times and it got to a point where she couldn't get up by herself. The decision was made to move her to a home. Swede sure flew that day! Ruby Nordwell wrote to Olive on May 30, 1940 about the move and put it in these words: ". . . (Martha) can't stay by herself so they sold the house and moved her to an old ladies home. Jo say they take

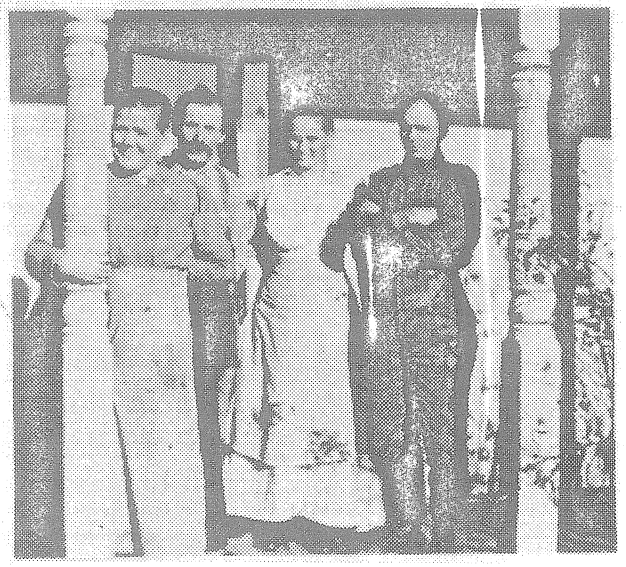
pretty good care of her but she don't like it. Her address is 1104 South Gold Street Centralia, Wash."

As things go Martha was there for about a year when Jo, Carl's wife, went to work at the home as an aide. Martha now had an old friend to keep her company. Martha passed away October 12, 1942 at age 77.

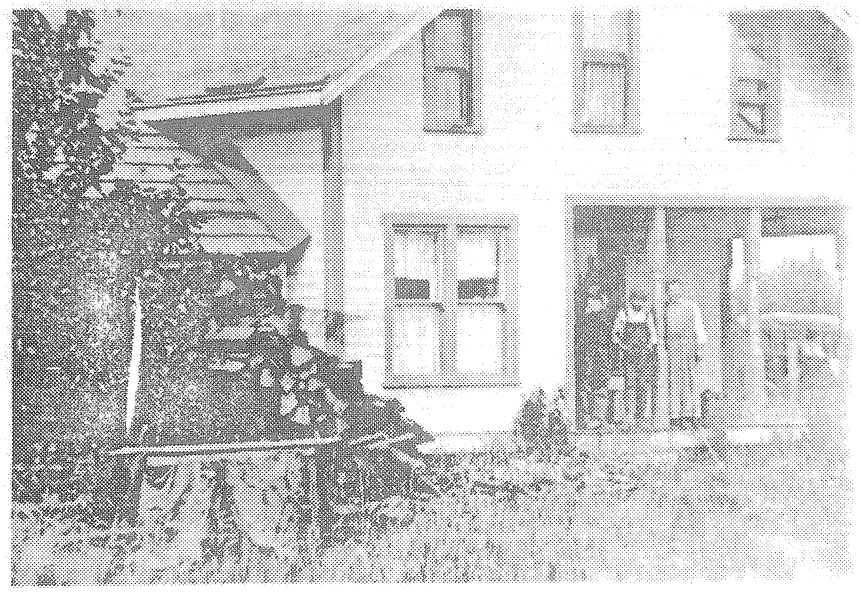
John and Martha lay at rest several plots from each other in Centralia's Mt. View Cemetery. Bonnie and myself have directions to the plots for those who are interested. Bonnie (Nordwell) Barton and her daughter Sherry recently replaced John's flat concrete headstone. The elements had worn the inscription so it was barely legible.



John & Martha with sons Carl & Oscar at Newaukum farm

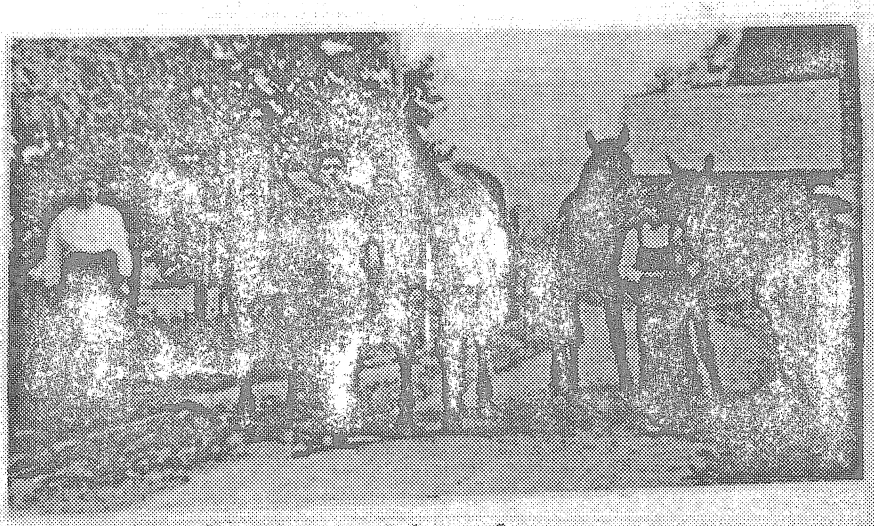


Martha & John Nordwell, and Ruby & Pete Nordwell at Newakum farm

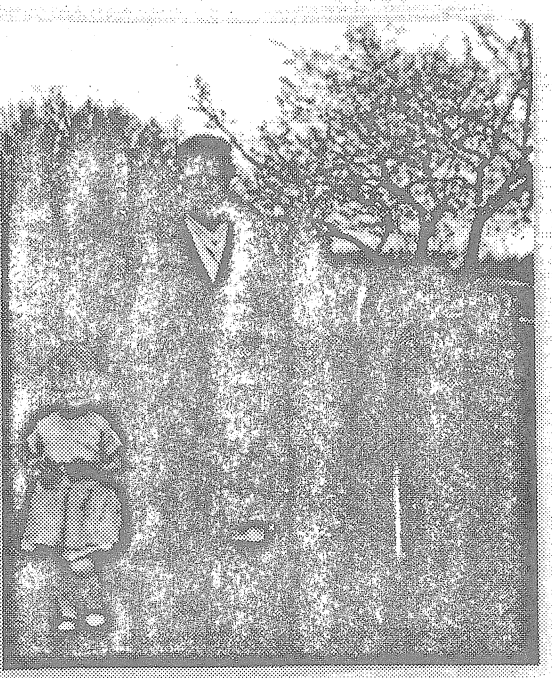


John & Martha's

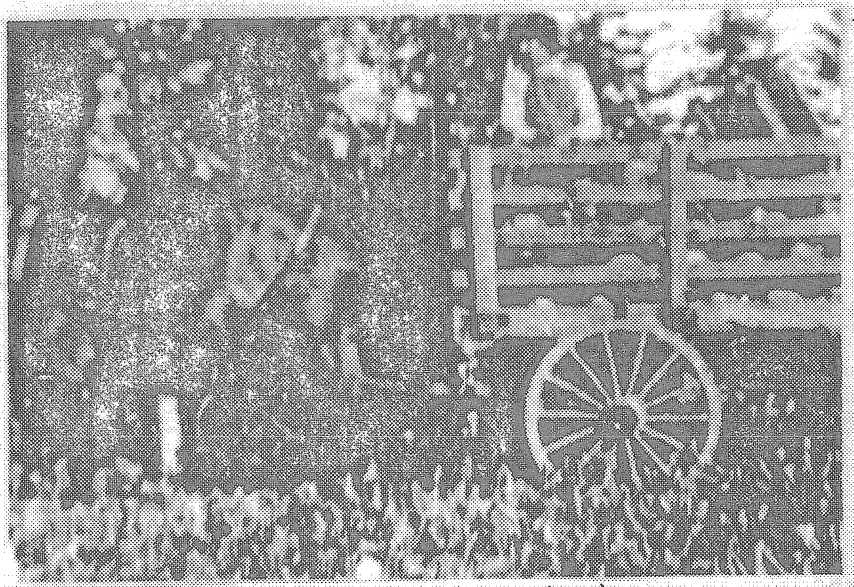
Newankum Valley home



Martha, Carl, Oscar & John and
their farm horses



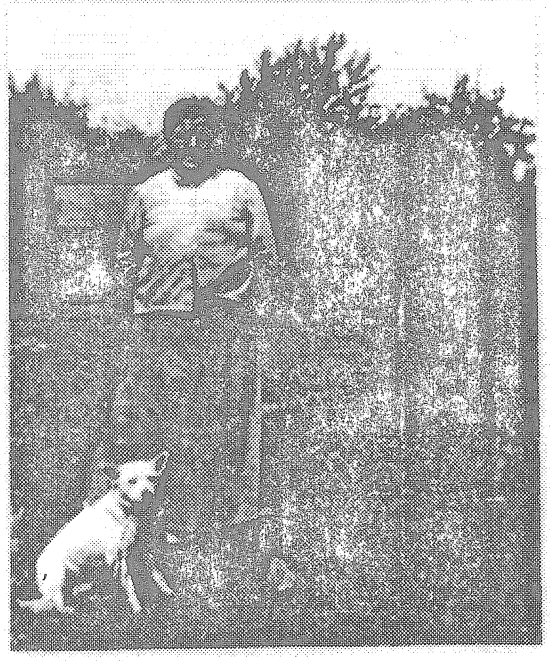
Martha with granddaughter
Bonnie Nordwell



The Neighbors, the Hamilton's gathering
pumpkins?



Martha Nordwell



Martha with her dog "Spot"

NOTES

NOTES



8

OSCAR NORDWELL
Oscar & Elizabeth Weller Nordwell, Bonnie Nordwell; Oscar & Goldie Baxter Nordwell

Oscar was born May 10, 1902 in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in southeastern Colorado. The following year the family moved to a farm near Goldendale, Washington where Oscar started school in 1908. The small country school was a couple of large fields from home. One afternoon Oscar didn't get home as usual. When supper was on the table and he still wasn't home his parents started worrying and looking. They found him in the far field, fifteen feet off the ground. The neighbors bull had him treed.

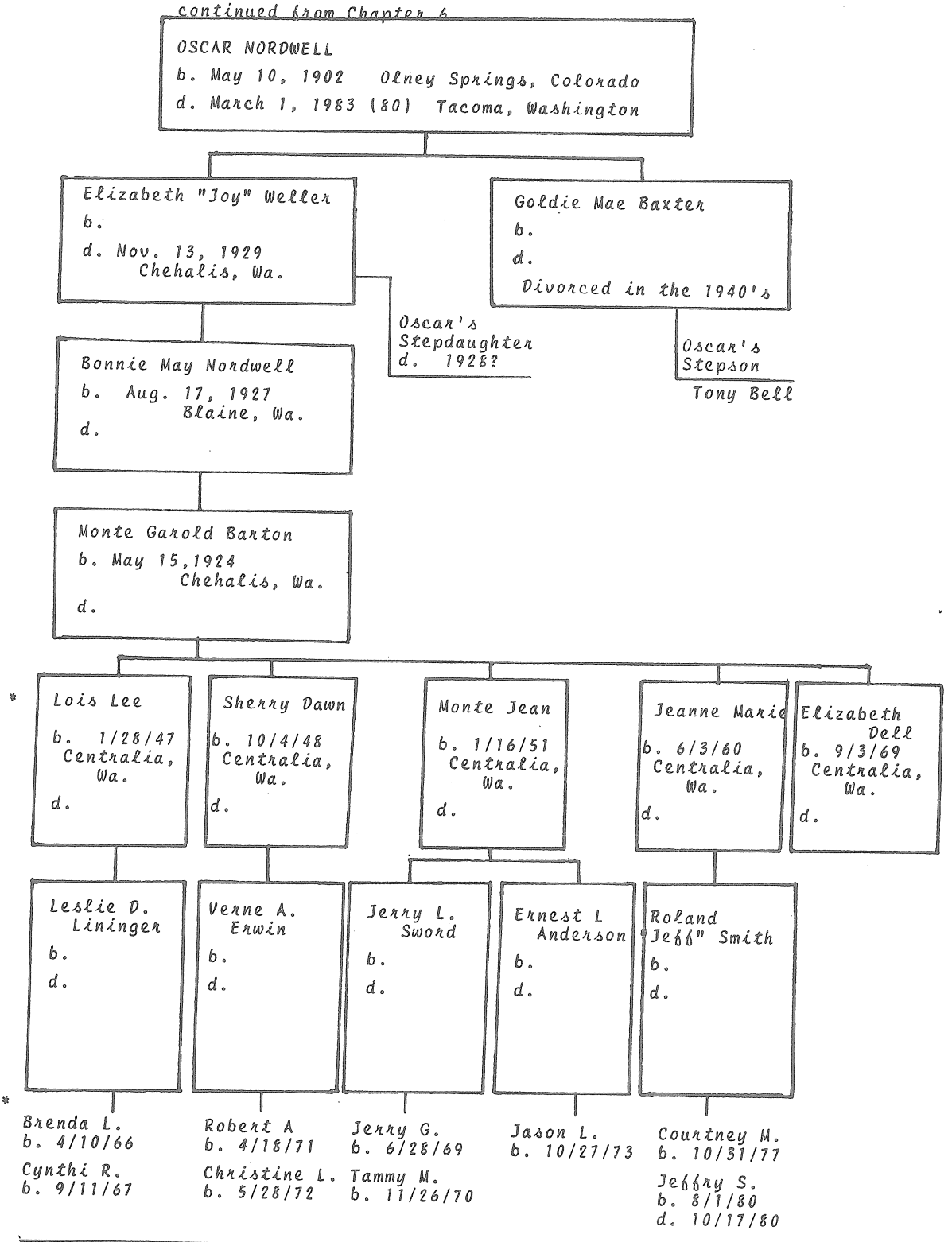
When Oscar was age 8 the family moved to a farm in the Newaukum Valley near Chehalis (see Newaukum Map in Chapter 7). There he went through the eight grade at the two room school across the river from the farm. He stayed and worked on the farm into his early twenties.

In 1926 Oscar married Elizabeth Joy Weller, a widow with a small girl. Her first husband, Mr. Laxdall, had died of tuberculosis. Oscar and Joy, as she was known, were living in Blaine, Washington when their only child, Bonnie, was born on August 17, 1927. Within a few months Oscar's dad became ill and Oscar decided to move back to help on the farm.

Joy's mother was taking care of Bonnie and Oscar's two year old step-daughter while they were moving. After supper the step-daughter pushed back from the table with her feet and tipped herself over in her high chair. After the usual crying and hurting her grandmother put her to bed. The next day she had a fever and died a few hours later of a brain hemorrhage.

Oscar inherited half (80 acres) of the family farm when his father died in 1928. By then Joy, who had been ill, became very sick. She apparently had contracted tuberculosis from her first husband. There was no known remedy at the time -- so it was just a matter of time. Martha took care of Joy and Bonnie until the work got to be too much. So Oscar and Carl hired Johanna (Jo) Rydman to help. Joy, like most tuberculosis patients of the day were isolated from others in the family with the hope no one else would catch it. Joy spent a lot of her last year sitting in a chair on the house's huge porch. On November 13, 1929 she passed away and is now in Centralia's Mt. View Cemetery where John and Martha Nordwell are also buried.

continued from Chapter 6



* All of Oscar's grandchildren and great grandchildren have been born in Centralia, Washington

August 1985

All dates are month/day/year

#,s in brackets indicate age at death

The truth of the matter was Oscar wasn't much interested in farming or farm work. When he inherited the eighty acres he had the haying and anything else he could done on shares. That way his cattle had plenty of feed but he didn't have to do the work. About this time he got a job as a brickburner at Chehalis Brick.

In the early 1930's Oscar had decided that he would someday remarry. So he built a small house on the north edge of the property next to the river and put in a well. Its still there and looks about the same except the trees are full grown. He also built Martha a small house next to the old farm house. Once this was done, the old farm house and most of the land was sold to Frank Mueller. This was in 1933 or 1934.

Martha pretty much raised Bonnie from 1929 until Oscar married Goldie Mae Baxter in 1934. Later Bonnie spent most of her summers with Martha. Goldie had a son, Ted Bell, by a previous marriage. The four of them lived in Oscar's new house. Not long after moving in Oscar got a chance to trade the place for two places in Centralia. The trade was made with a half acre or so held back for Martha.

Actually Oscar's marriage to Goldie upset his sister Carrie in Kansas. From an October 13, 1935 letter from Carrie to Olive Nordwell in Goldendale:

> " . . . how is Oscar, is he married yet? What is the matter with him that he don't write to me any more. I suppose he got sore at me what I wrote and told him. I wrote to a girl in Lindsborg and she was all most ready to go on the train to Washington and she got a letter from him and say that he was married. She sure did feel bad to. I no her real well. I don't think that was a very nice thing for him to do. That was about a year or two ago. She sure did think a lot of him."

Oscar apparently got on the wrong side of other relatives now and then. Ruby mentioned in several of her letters to Olive that he seldom visited his mother when she was in the nursing home even though he drove by daily on the way to and from work. Likewise when his brother was in the hospital; Oscar lived closer than any other relative but seldom visited Carl.

In 1941 Oscar quit his brickburning job and moved the family to Tacoma. They rented a house on south 17th Street; a house, that Bonnie says left a lot to be desired. It was wartime though so they felt lucky to have a house. Oscar got on as a painter at the Todd Ship Yard. Later they moved to South Tacoma Avenue where the Goodwill store is now located.

Toward the end of the war Ted was 25 and on his own; Bonnie had turned 17, and Goldie and Oscar decided to go into business for themselves. They moved back to their home at 1115 South Tower in Centralia and bought a restaurant. The Aloha Cafe, which was located where the laundromat sits today at Tower and Maple, was a family operation. Both Ted and Bonnie pitched in. There were many long hard hours put into the effort and it paid off. They had a good clientele at all three meals. Still things didn't work out.

There were many disputes between Oscar and Goldie and within a year the flare-ups led them to sell the business and separate.

Oscar returned to Tacoma and found a job with a landscaping firm and later returned to painting which he liked a lot better. Ted went his own way and Bonnie married Monte Barton on October 13, 1945. Oscar worked for a painting contractor. He painted lots of houses, including a bunch at Fort Lewis and several stores including the Albertson store in Centralia which is now the Shop-Rite. Along the way he had a falling out with his boss and quit his job. Shortly, though he was back to painting. This time at the Martinac Ship Yard. He worked there until he retired in 1967 at the age of 65.

All through his life Oscar enjoyed having a fancy new car. He seemed to keep to himself pretty much . . . at least he didn't visit with his family and relatives much. After retirement he stayed in Tacoma, living in various apartments until he passed away on March 1, 1983 and is buried at the Grand Mound Cemetery which is at the corner of Apricot Street and 183rd near Rochester.

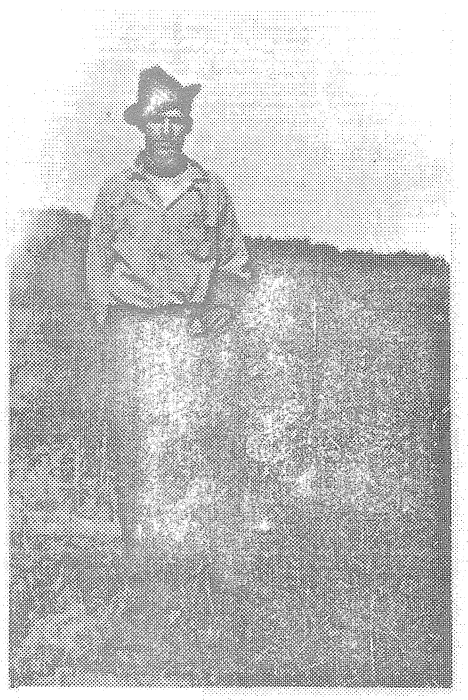
Bonnie Nordwell Barton

Bonnie and Monte lived in Centralia. Monte, who was a truck driver, delivered railroad ties from the mill to the railroads. That job lasted until about 1950. After that Monte and Bonnie picked ferns to keep going financially until he got a job on the Northern Pacific section crew near Moclips. By then the family included three girls: Lois Lee (1947), Sherry (1948), and Monte Jean (1951). The section crew job was good but Monte was getting sick all too often. The doctor said it was a reaction to the creosote in the ties, so it was moving time again.

They went back to Centralia where Monte drove truck again and Bonnie went to work at National Fruit Canning. In 1960 Jeanne was born and their fifth daughter Elizabeth "Lisa" was born in 1969. Bonnie moved over to Moduline which makes prefabricated homes. She liked that job but the work became too heavy. She worked on the beams and ceiling sheetrocking. Now she works seasonal jobs when they come up. Monte drives bus for Twin Transit and the four older girls are married and have delivered their parents ten grandchildren.



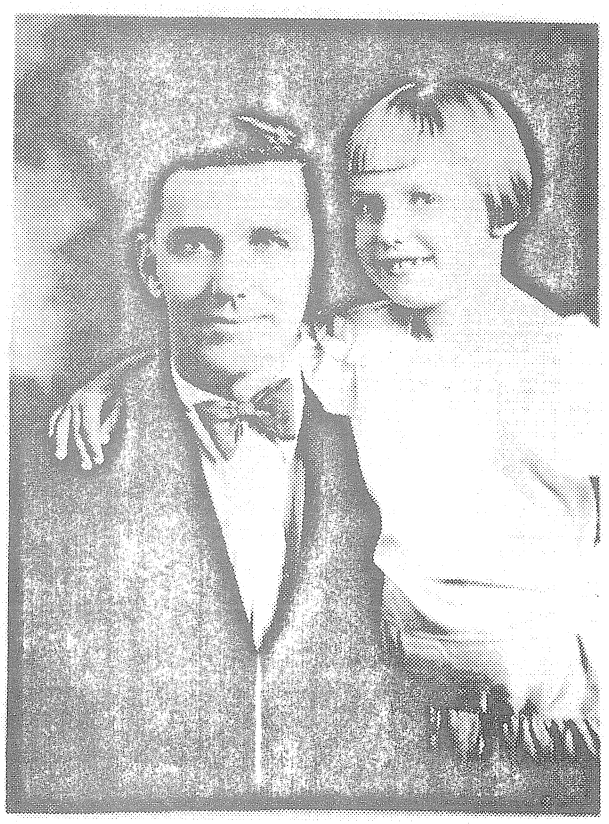
Young Oscar in Knickers



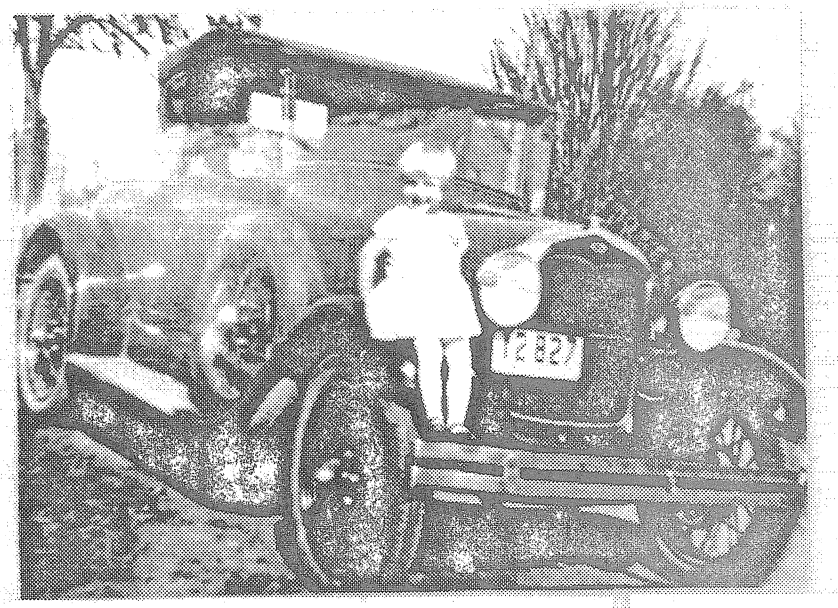
Oscar



Joy Nordwell holding daughter Bonnie



Oscar & daughter Bonnie



Bonnie and Oscar's brand new Model A



Home Oscar built on the Newaukum River



the hunters . . . Oscar & neighbor Clarence Miller



9

CARL NORDWELL

Carl & Johanne Rydman

In 1898 Tulsa was ten years old and a dusty two block long cow town. On May 15th of that year, Carl was born near Tulsa, probably at the family farm. As described earlier, the family headed westward a year or two later. First to Colorado, then to Goldendale, Washington, and in 1910 to the Newaukum Valley south of Chehalis.

Carl went through the eighth grade at the two-room school about a mile from the farm. After that, he helped around the farm and as he got older took outside jobs occasionally. When World War I broke out in 1917, Carl was about to turn 19. He put off signing up until 1919, when he joined the Army. He was off to basic and then specialized training. Just what he was to do in the Army is not known, but as luck would have it, Armistice Day, November 11, 1919, came before he was sent overseas.

He returned home and continued to help his dad at home. Carl was 30 in 1928 when his father died and he inherited half the family farm. In 1929 Carl married Johanna (Jo) Rydman who he and Oscar had hired to help their mother with Oscar's wife, who had tuberculosis, and young Bonnie. Jo, who was a widow, had 13 children. The youngest was five or six years old at the time, but several were grown and on their own. So it wasn't as crowded as it might have been. Carl and Jo, as you might imagine, had no children of their own.

They lived in a house in back of the farm by the old road near the railroad. He later built a new home and a barn on his place, across the field from the family home and by the new road. The house is there today, but has been remodeled and looks a lot different than originally.

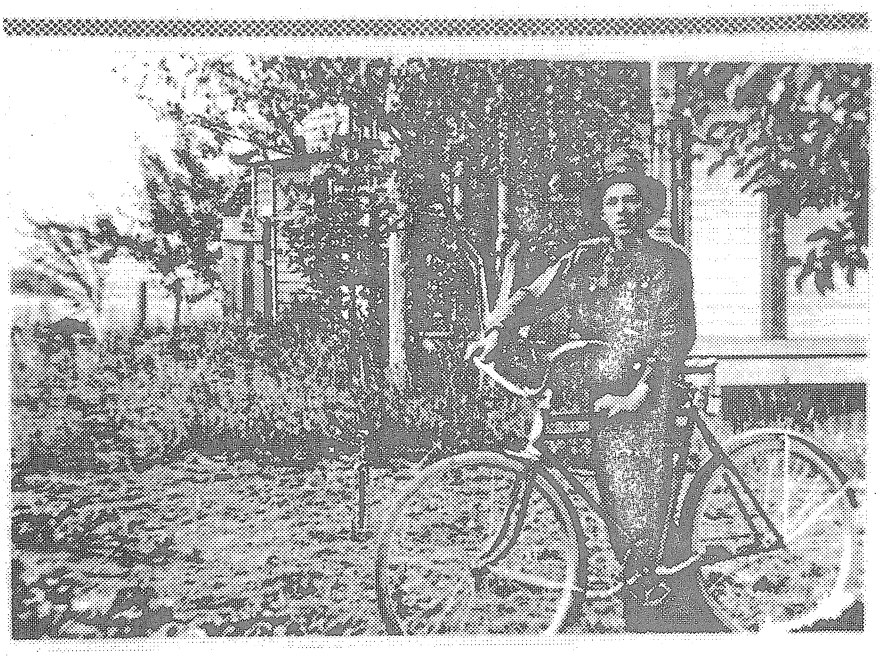
In 1931 Carl sold his share of the farm and took his family and work horses to the Grays Harbor area. There he and his horses logged for several years. Later he became a millworker. He was working nights at the Blagen's Mill when tragedy struck. On a dark, rainy night, Carl was walking across a small bridge. From the other direction a lumber carrier loaded with timbers was heading his way. The street wasn't lighted and the carrier had very dim lights. Carl couldn't see the timbers and apparently the driver didn't see Carl at all. Carl was hit. His leg from the thigh to the kneecap was turned to match sticks. Carl laid in the ditch for quite some time. His yelling

brought no response. Finally someone asked the carrier driver if he had seen Carl and he said no. So the driver went out to look for him; by then Carl had lost lots of blood and was in shock.

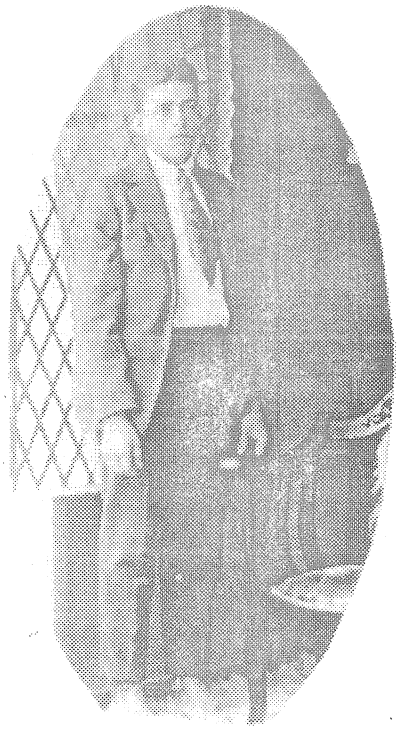
Carl was on the critical list for about ten days and when he appeared to be better, he had a stroke -- so he was back on the critical list. All this took its toll, physically and mentally. His leg was pinned together and after months he was on his feet, but barely. Then there was pain. He never fully recovered from the pain or the horrible experiences. He would wake up nights screaming, reliving the accident, feeling the pain. He was also having extreme and unpredictable violent spells.

Carl's family also suffered. The financial burden forced them out of their home. His violent spells forced Jo and Oscar to commit Carl to Western State Hospital for treatment. The stress led Jo to a nervous breakdown which fortunately was short-lived. Carl wasn't so lucky. He had his ups and downs. At first he came home fairly often, but as it would turn out they were only short stays. Those violent spells always returned. He came to understand his condition and told Jo that he was afraid he'd hurt somebody and that it was best if he stayed permanently at Steilacoom.

Over ten years after the accident, Ruby, in one of her letters to Olive (February 1, 1950), described Carl's condition in these words: ". . . he is better in his mind than he has ever been since he got hurt but I don't feel like I am able to take care of him. He can walk around but his arm is still helpless." He loved to have visitors and always talked up a storm. On March 17, 1951, at the age of 52, he died and was buried at the hospital cemetery.



Carl Nordwell at Newaukum farm



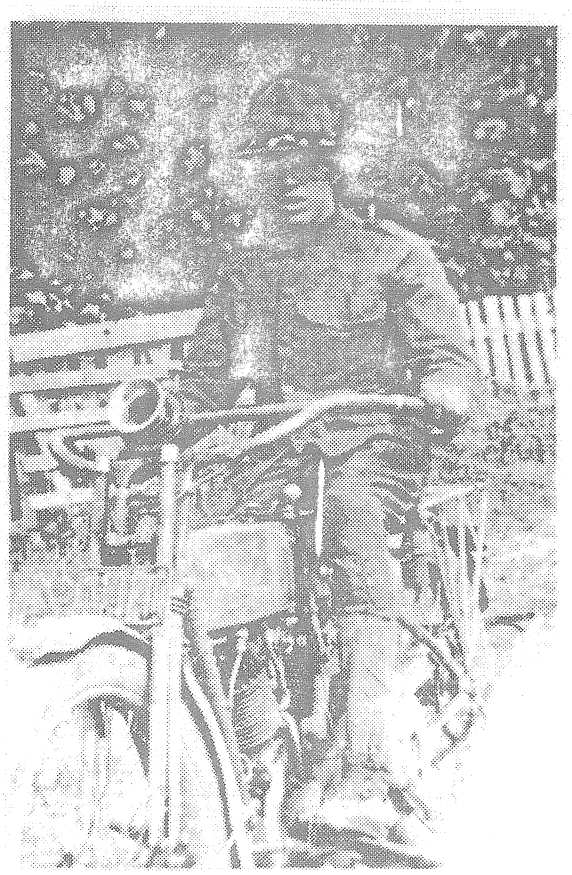


Ruby with Mary, Lester
Carl Nordwell

Carl Nordwell in Parlor of
Newankum farmhouse . . . fancy
suit and button-up shoes



Carl at "attention" in WWI
uniform



Carl Nordwell

NOTES



10

CARRIE NORDWELL PETERSON

Carrie & Andrew Peterson, & Peter Nordwell of Kansas

Like her brothers Peter and Olaf, Carrie was born in Galfren, Sweden. Her mother Britta died, from complications at Carries birth, on June 13, 1884. By age four, she was on her way to a new home . . . America.

Carrie apparently spent most of her adult life in or near Kansas City, Kansas. She settled somewhere near her dad's brother Pete who had been their for several years. Whether she stayed with her uncle initially is not known. We know she did not come west with the family when they left Oklahoma around 1900 (see chapter 7). It is very possible that she settled in Kansas City before that. She married Andrew Petersen who was born January 18, 1891. They had no children. Not much else is known about Carrie, except that she worked for many years for a hotel.

Carrie kept in touch with her kin out west via letter. Six letters to Olive Nordwell have been saved and are in the possession of Winnie Nordwell Stevens in Goldendale. From these letters and the few pictures available we can get a glimpse of her life.

October 13, 1938 (Address: 201 N. 30th Kansas City, Kansas)

"Andrew has not worked in six months."

"Our Uncle Pete is dead he passed away about four months ago. I never got any time to write and let you know about him. He died at the poor ? (illegible)." (His birth certificate shows that he died March 26, 1935 in the town of Harmiff, which has probably been absorbed into Kansas City today and that he was a stonemason.)

"Andrew is hard working, nice to me. I couldn't got any better man."

November 3, 1942

" . . . we have not been home for two Sundays. We have been helping friends of ours out at Smithville, Mo. on a house they have . . ."

"I am going over to see cousin Olaf and his wife today. Olaf's wife is not at all well."

"Hope Carl and also Jo are better."

February 9, 1954 (Address: Kansas City, Kansas)

"Andrew is still ____ (illegible) he can get an other job. He is to old he was 63 years young the Jan 18th and I will be 70 in June the 13th. Least I still feel like a spring chicken. But I can work away very hard I get pretty tired some times."

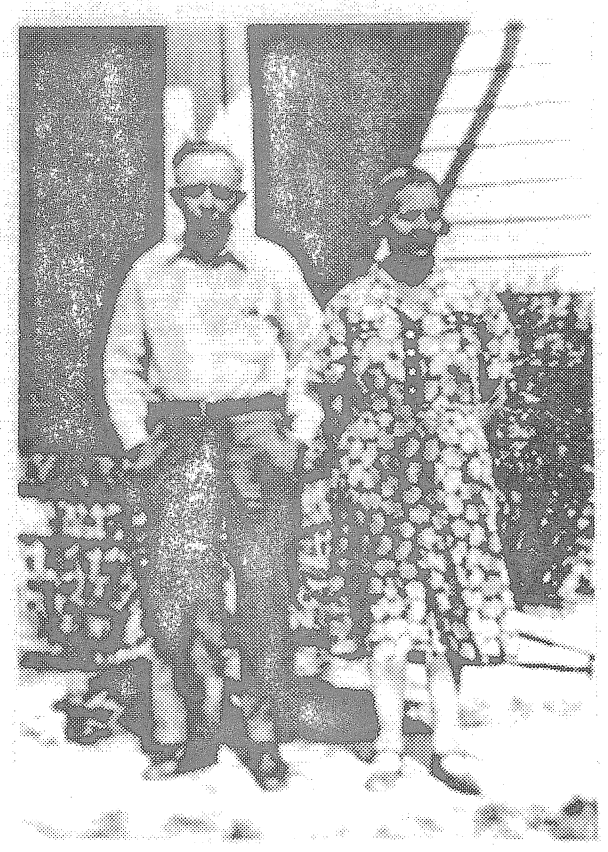
" . . . I don't have much to do now in our two room house. We like it fine, only thing we can do much on it, it takes the money so we just get a little lumber . . . lumber is so high here."

July 5, 1954 (Address: Kansas City, Kansas)

"It is sure hot here, 75 degrees in the city; if we only had cold nights so we could sleep. . . . Everything is dry, we had a little garden that is drying up. Andrew had (not) worked since last year, we are getting pretty short on money."



Carrie



Andrew & Carrie in Kansas



11

OLAF NORDWELL
The Olaf & Olive White Nordwell family--Winnie, Alma, Melburn "Nick"

On May 11, 1887 Olaf celebrated his 6th birthday in Sweden. A week later he was on his way to America. They went first to the upper midwest and then to Oklahoma and Colorado.

Olaf went through the eighth grade but learned his English first from sheep herders in the midwest. His family stayed pretty much in Swedish settlements when they were first in America and at home Swedish was it as neither parent spoke English.

Not long after his 16th birthday in 1903 the family pulled into Goldendale, Washington where Olaf settled permanently. The Nordwell farm was located three miles north of town off the Orchard Heights Road. Olaf worked at the home farm but more and more followed seasonal jobs. He went to the Yakima Valley to pick hops and fruit. He also worked the wheat harvest and in the winter had a job at the brick yard in Granger, Washington.

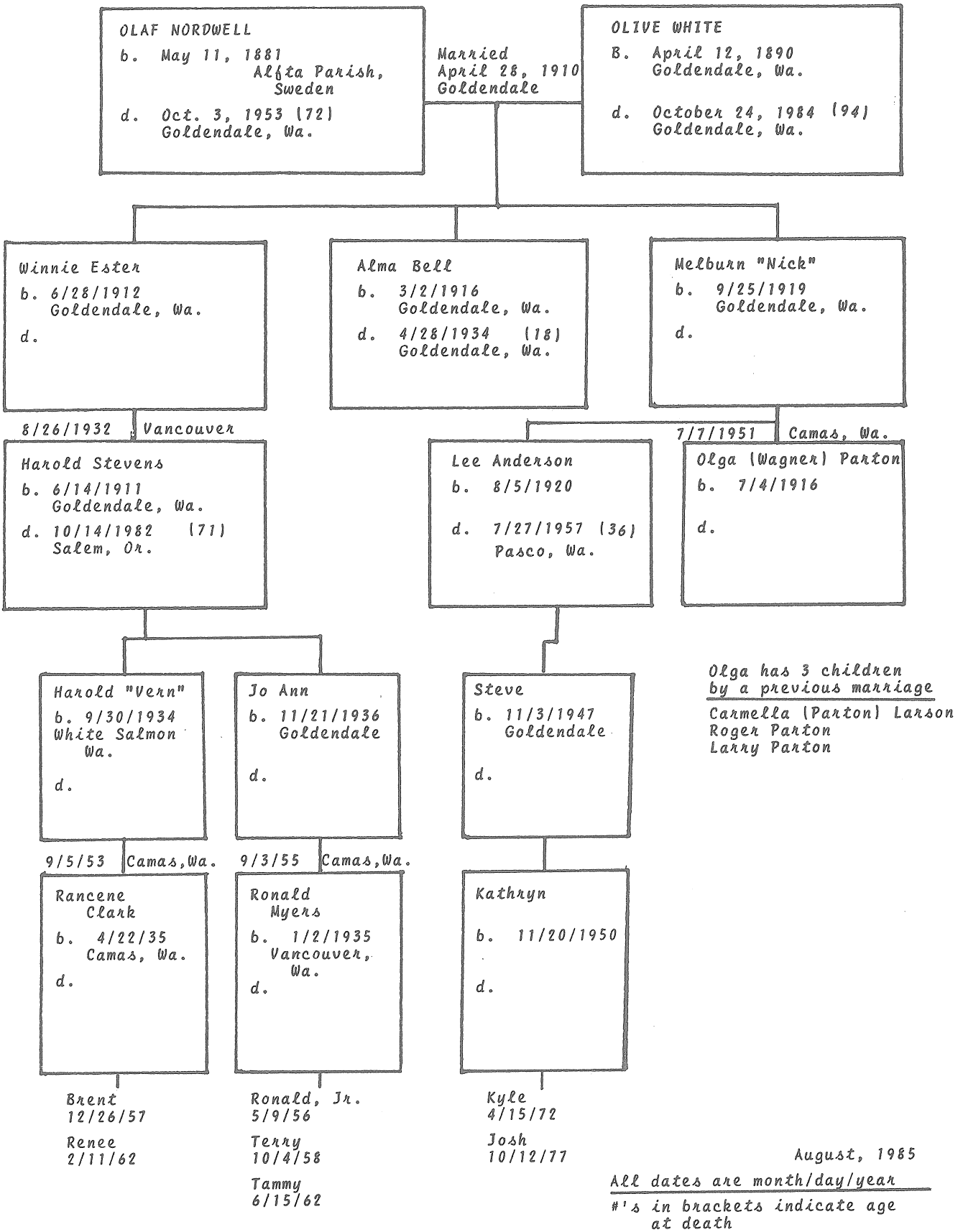
By 1910, at age 29, he was foreman on the O. J. Nelson ranch also located in the Orchard area. By then he was courting Olive White and wedding bells sounded at noon April 28, 1910:

White-Nordwell

"Miss Olive White, a charming and well-known young lady of Goldendale, and Mr. Olaf Nordwall of Hood River were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents in this city Thursday, April 28, 1910, at High noon. Rev. Suhr of the Lutheran church officiating. The groom is the foreman for Mr. O. J. Nelson, the Hood River capitalist, who has been purchasing large tracts in this valley.

The guests present were: Mrs. Harriman, Mr. and Mrs Wm. Rust, Mr. and Mrs. John White, Mr. Albert White, Jessie White, Mr. and Mrs. John Nordwall, Mrs. Lillie Divers, Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Roberts, Miss Daisy Roberts, Miss Minnie Roberts, Mr. Carl Nordwall, Mr. Oscar Nordwall.

continued from Chapter 6



Among the presents received were: Mr. and Mrs. John Nordwall, water set and clock; Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Roberts, one milch cow, 14 chickens, check for $10, table linen and napkins; Daisy Roberts, lace curtains; Minnie Roberts, two center pieces; Albert White, Japanese set; Jessie White, towels; Mr. and Mrs. John White, pitcher and spoon holder, butter dish and creamer; Mrs. Presber, bed spread; Mrs. Harriman, salad bowl; Mrs. Lillie Divers, sofa cushion; Mrs. Ethel Divers, fruit dish; Miss Shirley Dilliree, cake plate; Carl and Oscar Nordwall, brush and comb.

Armed with a supply of cigars and oranges, etcetera, the newly wedded couple attempted to get out of town with a livery rig without being caught by the charivari party, but owing to the team running away and throwing them out plans miscarried somewhat, although neither were hurt in the smash up. The Sentinel and their many friends extend congratulations."

Goldendale Sentinel
May, 1910

Olive's father, James E. White, was a retired barber from Portland. They had a small farm near Goldendale. The Whites are one of the early Goldendale families. They were out of Missouri and came to Portland in 1844 and to Goldendale in 1877.

Not long after their wedding the other Nordwells moved to Western Washington.

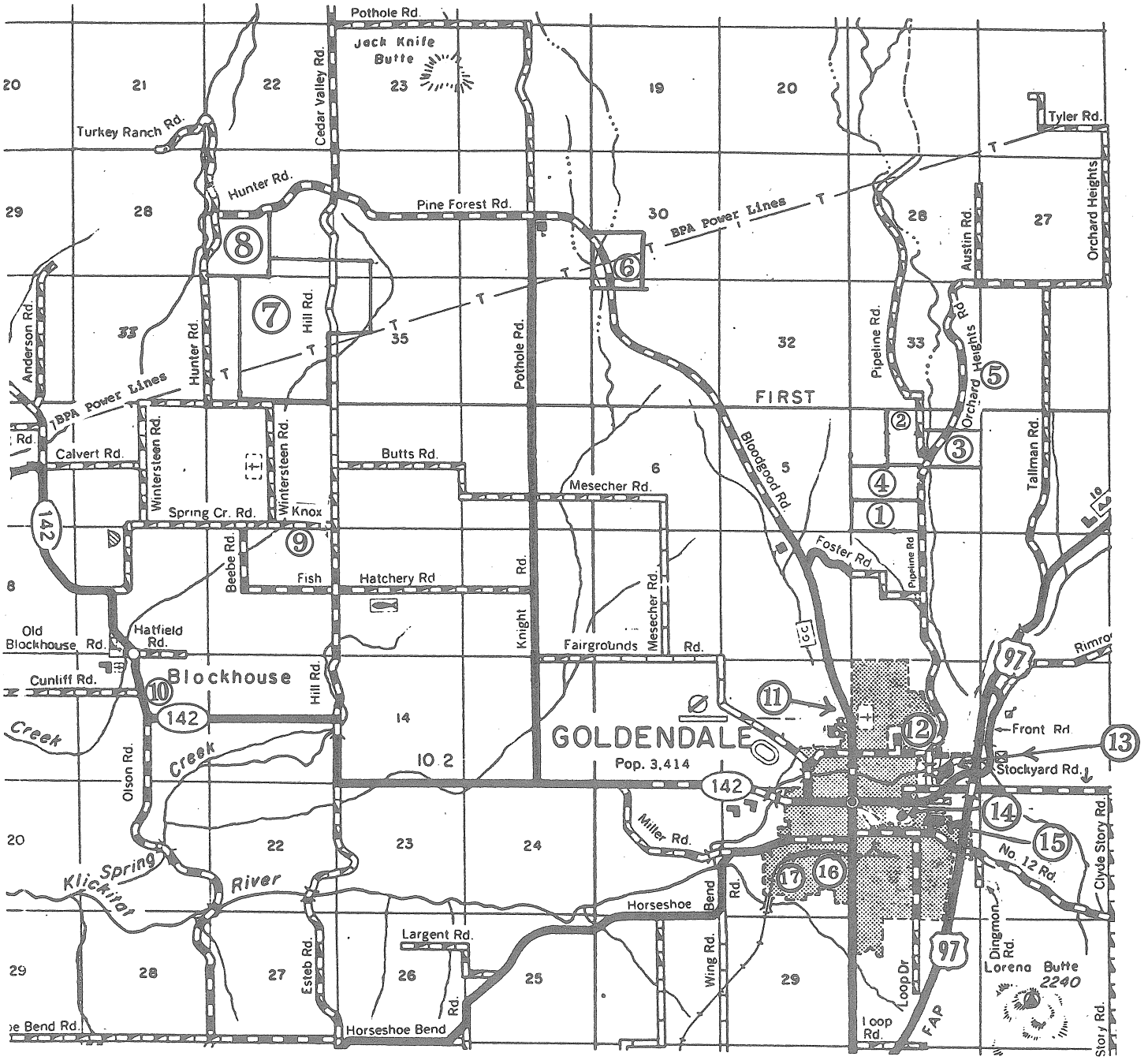
Just how long Olaf stayed on at Nelson's is not known. But when Winnie was born on June 28, 1912 they were staying with Cora Hamelik, a sister of Olive's living in Goldendale at what is now 216 Sentinel Street.

Back in 1888 half of Goldendale's business district went up in flames. An event common in those days as towns lacked water systems needed to fight fires. All to frequently small fires grew to large disasters. Now in 1912 or 13 Olaf was having a tough time finding a steady job. About then the city decided it was time to put in a water system and hired Olaf. Still it was only a summer job. The family however was well taken care of because of Olaf's resourcefulness. The part time jobs brought in cash for the essentials. He also loved to hunt and undoubtedly put those skills to good use. He also trapped for the fur or the bounty when the government was trying to reduce the predator animal population.

By 1915 his job prospects were still far and few between, so he and Olive decided to join their kin in Western Washington. They bought acreage where Marysville stands today. They were getting ready to move when he was offered and quickly accepted the managers job at the 600+ acre Portland-Goldendale Farm. The ranch, owned by a Portland corporation, was a modern affair with a gravity irrigation system. They raised pigs, cattle, alfalfa and had two hired-hands the year round and a bunch during the haying season. The

GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



RURAL

(1) **Thomas Scouller's** 80 acre farm 1893 to 1905; since 1956 the home of **Nick and Olga Nordwell**. . . go ½ mile past Foster Rd. The long driveway off Pipeline Rd. to the house is the south boundary.

(2) **John P. Nordwell's** 80 acre farm purchased from **Agnes Scouller** in 1903 for $800. . . . west of Pipeline Rd. at the Junction of Pipeline and Orchard Heights roads.

(3) **John P. Nordwell's** 119 acre purchase of Public Lands in 1909. (See Chp. 21 for papers) . . . is directly east of (2) .

(4) **John P. Nordwell's** 160 acre Homestead granted in 1912, after the family moved to western Washington?? Property seems to overlap with (2) immediately north of (1) west of Pipeline Road.

(5) **Olaf Nordwell** managed this, The **Nelson Ranch**, from 1910 to about 1912. Approximate location only.

(6) **Peter J. and Ruby Nordwell's** 82 acre farm and Homestead applied for in December 1908 but denied in June 1910. . . . just over 4 miles north of town on Bloodgood Rd. Watch for the power lines which bisect the property.

(7) **Olaf Nordwell manged this, the 600+ acre Portland Goldendale farm** from 1915 to 1920. Birthplace of Alma Nordwell . . . about 7 miles N.W. of town off Hill Road; it's a dirt road. The power lines cut across the southern third.

(8) **Olaf and Olive Nordwell's** 160 acre family farm which they lived at from 1920 to 1934. . . just NW of (7) ; on Hunter Rd. where it makes a 90° turn and intersects with Turkey Ranch Rd.

(9) Site of the **Spring Hill School** where Winnie Nordwell spent her elementary school years . . . from Hill Rd. turn onto Knox Rd.

(10) Site of the **Blockhouse School** where Nick and Alma Nordwell attended. The Blockhouse was also used for dances and other social functions during this time. . . on Highway 142 west of town about a 2 miles past Hill Rd.

IN TOWN

(11) **IOFF Cemetery** where Olaf, Olive, and Alma Nordwell are buried. . . off Bloodgood Rd. take the 1st road into cemetery. Their headstones are 3 rows in and the 7th and 8th headstone to the right, next to the juniper trees.

(12) Original site of the **Goldendale Meat Co and Stockyards** where **Nick Nordwell** worked and in the 1950's operated his custom slaughter service . . . just north of NE Third Ave. where it meets N. King St.

(13) **Goldendale Meat Co. and Slaughter house** where **Nick Nordwell** worked for several years and currently works part time, 1342 So. Roosevelt.

(14) Home that **Olaf Nordwell** built in 1935 and the family residence ever since. The current home of **Winnie Nordwell** Stevens . . . 302 N. Academy St.

(15) **Olaf and Olive Nordwell's** in-town farm and home from 1934 - 1935. It was about 2 acres bounded in general by Roosevelt, Collins, Allen and King Streets. The barn was on Roosevelt near Collins. Olaf later built the house currently at 601 E. Collins today.

(16) Home of **Olive Nordwell's sister**, Cora Hamelik, where Winnie was born in 1912 and Nick in 1919. The family lived with the Hamelik's in 1912 and possibly 1913 . . . 216 Sentinel Street.

(17) Site of the **Klickitat Pine and Box Co. Mill** where **Olaf** worked from 1935 to 1946. It is currently a Boise-Cascade mill. South of Railroad Avenue next to the track and BPA Power Substation.

irrigation system worked great but didn't cover the entire ranch because of the terrain. Olaf loved to tell about when the corporate brass came out to look things over. They spent some time on the irrigation system. The brass were sure they could get water to yonder field. The only problem was the water would have to have gone up hill!

The work was hard. Running a large ranch successfully without electricity nor internal combustion engine couldn't have been easy. Of course they were accustom to the work and did well. In fact, this was a prosperous time for the family. They bought their first car in 1918 and were able to set some money aside. During this time Alma Bell and Melburn were born. Alma in 1916 and "Nick" in 1919.

In 1920 the farm was sold and Olaf lost his job. He and Olive took their savings and put a down payment on a 160 acre ranch 9 miles northwest of town next to the Portland-Goldendale farm. There Olaf raised cattle, alfalfa and started a dairy herd of guernseys, and jerseys. He also rented other places and grew wheat. Olive of course was busy raising the children, keeping the household running and everybody fed and clothed. She also sold vegetables, fruit, milk and butter from the farm.

Winnie described those early years, 1915 to 1930, in Goldendale this way:

> "Dad loved to hunt and fish when time permitted. He had a dry sense of humor. My mom was the opposite and loved to tease and joke although dad loved to play pranks, together they made a good team.
>
> During our growing up period we never wanted for clothes or food. Living on a farm we could raise all fruit and vegetables needed, the cellar was full of canned produce. We always raised beef, pigs, chicken and sheep, so our meat supply was a variety. Dad would take a load of wood to Maryhill peach orchards and come back with a load of fruit. I remember one year mom and I canned 350 quarts of peaches alone. We didn't know what an allowance was. Our outings were to come to town on Saturday night, listen to the band play, once in awhile go to the movie. Sometimes there was a street dance. On Sunday it was to church, which were held in school houses. If it was warm, the sermon was given outside. Just like the song the 'Little Church in the Wildwood'. After church there was usually a picnic. In the winter our recreation was parties, dances and neighborhood get togethers. I've gone to dances since I was 6 weeks old. Dad danced but really didn't enjoy it like the rest of us, but he would always take us. In those days we usually danced till daylight. Those who didn't dance would play checkers.
>
> My biggest hobby was horse back riding. I had a pony and my five girl friends did too. We would take a sack lunch and ride the countryside. Nick loved to hunt and fish. Alma was a home body and loved to sew and embroider.

I wouldn't trade my growing up years for anything. Lots of hard work, as being 7 years older than Nick I was dads hay hand as well as moms helper, especially when the harvesters were working as dad rented several places and grew wheat. That meant working from daylight till dark."

They did well at first but few farmers in those days truly prospered, and Olaf was no exception. When the roaring 20's came to a crashing halt in 1929, farm prices fell drastically and markets stayed lean for years. In Klickitat County wheat prices that stood at $2.12 per bushel in 1920 were $1.07 in 1929. In the early 1930's some farmers were getting as little as 26 cents a bushel.

The Nordwells were luckier than most families during the depression. The stores in Goldendale were all heated by wood furnace. Olaf, with his usual resourcefulness, furnished wood for the stores. In contrast to most, the stores actually owed him. So with the food they grew at home, the hunting quarry, and the credit at the stores they survived the depression relatively comfortably. That is, until late 1934 when a fire destroyed their barn and the hay. The loss of the winters feed was a fatal blow. Rather than loose the farm outright they sold, what they spent 14 years building, for next to nothing. 1934 wasn't a good year, to say the least. Besides the fire and having to give up the place they also lost Alma. She died of a thyroid problem she had since birth.

The family moved into town where Olaf got a job with the Klickitat Pine and Box Co. It was located where the Boise Cascade Mill operates today. Olaf worked there for several years and did about everything there was to do around the mill.

When they moved, Goldendale itself was pretty much rural except for the very heart of town. They got an acre or two and had a barn, a cow and chickens. The property sits near the middle school between E. Collins Drive and E. Allen, and between S. King and S. Roosevelt streets. Olaf built the house at 601 E Collins Dr. which sets on the SW corner of the property. He also built the house at 302 S. Academy which is now Winnie's home and has been the family home for the past 50 years. The Collins Drive home may have been built last as it was for Nick when he was first married.

In 1935 Olaf bought the Academy Street lot and grabbed his hammer and saw and started building. Eight months later they had themselves a new three bedroom home. The lumber came from the mill where he worked, so he got a good deal there and with his own labor . . . they owned nary a nickel on the house when they moved in. The house featured all the latest conveniences; electricity, running water and indoor plumbing.

By World War II Winnie and Nick were on their own. Winnie had married Harold Stevens in 1932 and Nick was off fighting in the Pacific.

After 11 years at the mill Olaf retired in 1946 at age 65. Their only

retirement income was a small social security payment however, so he took up janitor work. He spent eight hours a night at the local bank and a few other businesses cleaning and in the winter also kept the furnaces stoked.

Olaf became ill in 1949 with cancer of the prostrate gland and passed away October 3, 1953 at age 72.

Olive was a hardy soul. She took care of the family and loved to crochet, knit and sew. Her skill, patience and pride are very visible in her art work. She continued these activities until her death on October 24, 1984 at age 94. Today, Olaf and Olive lie at rest next to their daughter Alma in the IOOF Cemetery north of town off of N. Columbus Ave. To find them enter the first gate. On the right side, 3 rows in from Columbus they are the seventh and eighth headstone. They're marked by flat headstones and two seven foot junipers planted by Nick in the 1950's.

Winnie Ester Nordwell Stevens

Winnie was born June 28, 1912, the first of three children. Olive and Olaf had left the Nelson Ranch and were staying with Olive's sister Cora Hamelik in Goldendale.

A couple of years later they moved out to the Portland-Goldendale Farm. While there in 1918 Winnie started going to the Spring Creek School. The school had one teacher, 9 grades and an ink well on every desk. It wasn't long before she was initiated to school life. Her curls were dipped in the ink well behind her. The villain, Harold Stevens. The Stevens family moved to Portland a couple years later. Harold, however reappeared in Goldendale now and then to visit relatives and friends.

The Nordwell kids were well dressed for school thanks to their skilled parents. Olive loved to sew and was quite a seamstress. Many a night she'd stay up at her Franklin sewing machine. The next morning the girls would find a new dress lying on their bed. While Olive made the clothes, Olaf was an expert shoe cobbler and stitched and resoled the family shoes up into the 1920's. He was a perfectionist when it came to shoes and was very particular about the fit of the children's shoes. Winnie recalls that brown heavy brogue oxfords were the fad with teenagers. She really wanted a pair but her feet were too narrow for any at the local store. Olaf being a good father he was took her to the local cobbler and made a bargain. The cobbler made the shoes and Olaf delivered $18 worth of firewood, which would have bought three pair of ordinary shoes.

Winnie graduated from G.H.S. in 1931; that night Harold Stevens reappeared. A year later, on August 26, 1932 Winnie and Harold were married in Vancouver. They moved to Portland where Harold started to work at the Viking Bakery on Franklin Street. The depression was still in full swing and so to speak there wasn't enough bread to go around. At least not of the green variety and the bakery went broke. They returned to Goldendale where Harold went to work in the local bakery.

In 1935 he left the bakery and got on with the Washington State Department of Highways in 1936. He was on the maintenance crew that covered southwest Washington. In the winter he worked out of the Klickitat office and was in Vancouver the rest of the year. The crew was sent to Raymond for a month of ditching in the summer of 1938. Rather than sit out the long assignment of home, Winnie hired on as the crew cook.

During World War II Winnie and Harold separated and later divorced. Winnie lived in the Portland-Vancouver area for the next forty years. She started working as a clerk for J. C. Penney in their shoe department. She spent most of her retail career in shoes with the Meier and Franks Department Store. In 1974 Olive came to live with Winnie. Three years later Winnie retired for the first time. But the ink wasn't dry on her last M & F check when she was back working at Nadean's Shoes & Clothing Store in the Vancouver Mall. She worked there until the store closed in 1984. Then at age 72, Winnie really was retired. In August 1984 she and Olive moved back to the family home on Academy Street in Goldendale where she currently resides. Now she's out of retirement again. This time she's a part-time assistant to her sister-in-law Olga who is site manager of the local senior center. Winnie puts in two or three days a week in the kitchen helping prepare the 75 or so meals they serve daily.

Alma Bell Nordwell

Alma was born at the Portland-Goldendale Farm on March 2, 1916. She was the family small fry. Actually she had a serious thyroid disorder which stunted her growth. It wasn't really noticed until she approached two and still wasn't walking. She went through the eighth grade; even then she was smaller than most second graders. Today medicine can correct the problem but for Alma it meant being different and death in 1934 at age 18.

Melburn "Nick" Nordwell

The family was living at the Portland-Goldendale Farm in 1919 and Olive was expecting their third child. The arrival date turned out to be September 25, the name Melburn. He, like his sister Winnie, was born at his Aunt Cora's in Goldendale. By the age of five he was being called Nick.

His early years were spent on the farm so he had plenty of chores to keep him busy and out of mischief. At age 15 (1934), the family moved into Goldendale after fire destroyed the barn and winter feed. Before graduating from high school in 1937 he mowed lawns, stacked firewood, worked in the hay fields and anything else he could find to do for his spending money.

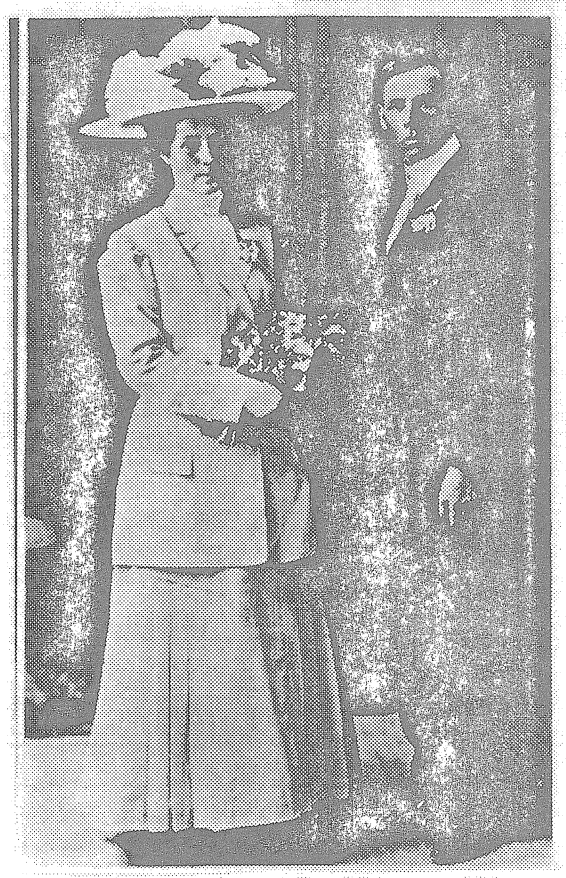
After graduating he went to work at Klein Bros. Meat Market. When World War II broke out he went into the service. At first he was in the Army Air Force where they sent him to meat cutting school. Several months later he transferred to the machine gun section of the 19th Infantry, 24th Division,

Company H. Nick and his unit saw action first hand in the Phillipines and Leyte. Like his cousin Lester Nordwell, Nick's also stayed over for the occupation and did not get home until late in 1945.

Returning to Goldendale, Nick went back to his job with the meat company until it was sold. Later he married Lee Anderson and lived in the Collins Drive home. They had two children; Steve on November 3, 1947 and Kathyrn on November 20, 1950, before they divorced.

For 16 years Nick ran his own custom slaughter service. He rented the old stockyard facilities which are located at the corner of N. King and NE Third Avenue. He later went to work for the Goldendale Meat Co. In 1982 he "retired" but still works there 30 to 40 hours a week as a butcher..

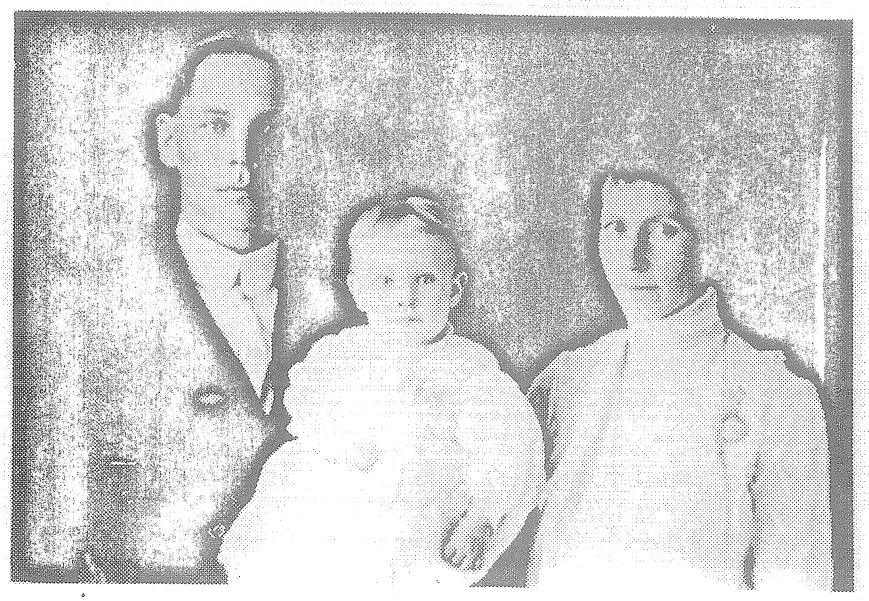
Nick married Olga Wagner Parton on July 7, 1951. Five years later they moved out to the country . . . they bought the old Scouller property in Orchard Heights. The place had only one tree, a large garage/machine shed and a barn. Nick planted some trees and transformed the garage into the nice three bedroom house that is their home today. The barn was made of logs and was there when the Scoullers settled there in 1903. Nick had asked his Aunt Ruby Nordwell when the barn was built. She didn't know but said it wasn't new when her father moved onto the farm. Today the log barn is still in good shape but has a couple of additions and a tin roof on its south side to protect it from the weight of the snow.



Olive & Olaf Nordwell's wedding portrait. Goldendale, 1910



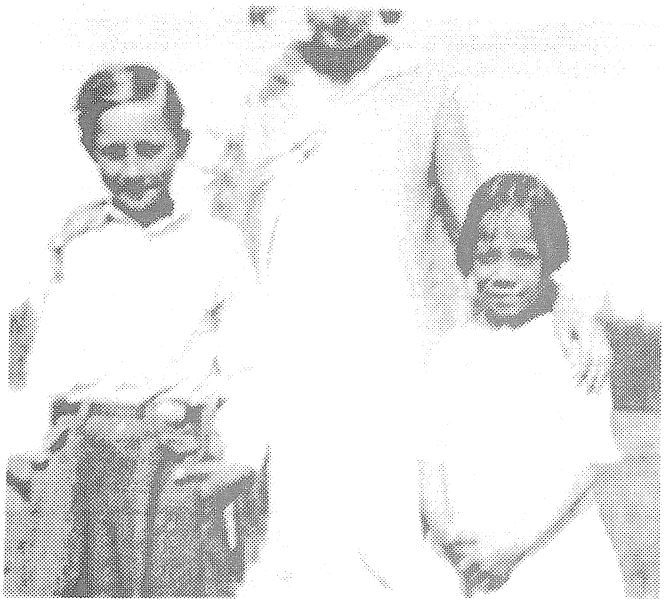
Alma, "Nick," Winnie Nordwell. The cloths were made by their mother, Olive



Olaf, "Nick" & Olive



Winnie



"Nick" age 9, Winnie 17, Alma 13.
July 30, 1929



Melburn "Nick"



Winnie Nordwell Stevens



Olive wearing Olaf's hat at
Nelson Ranch home

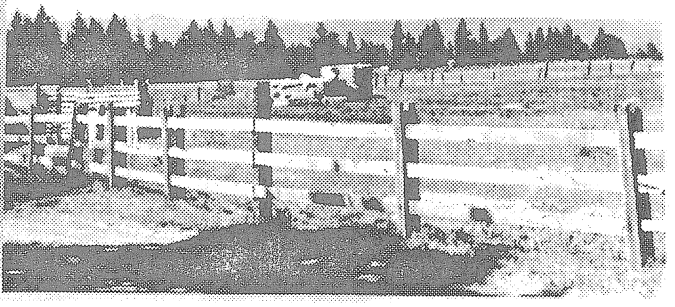


Winnie, Alma & Olive



Olaf with catch

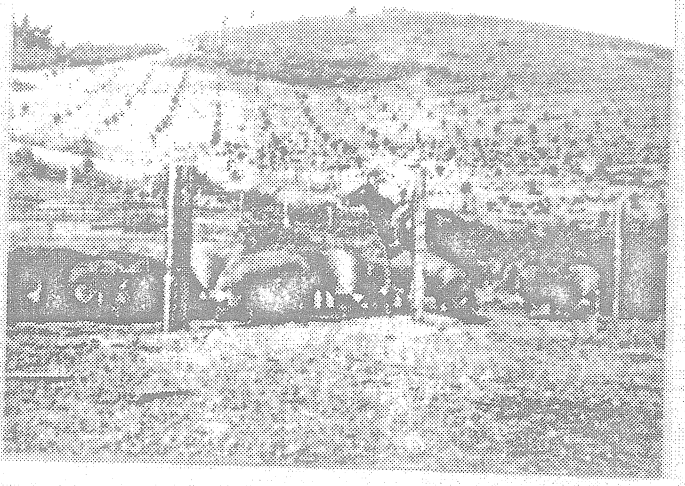




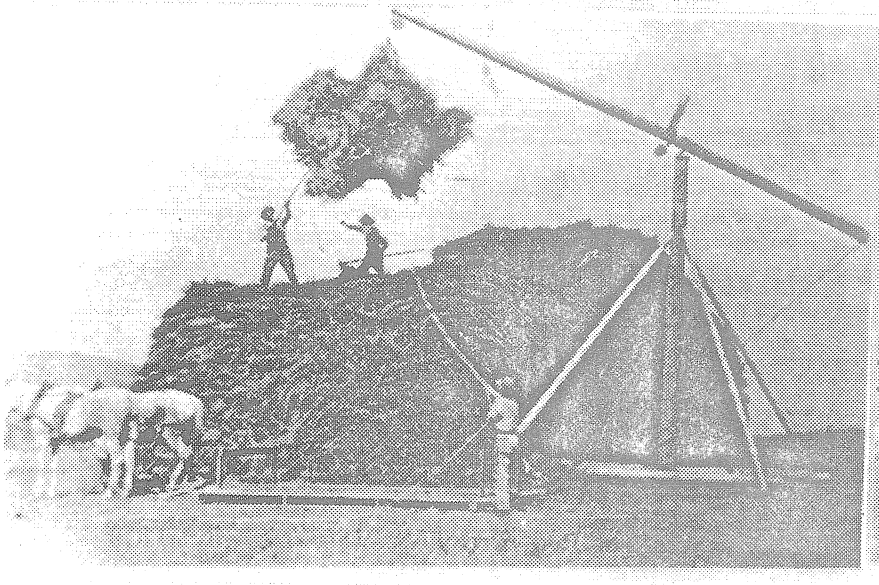
"Nick" & Olga Nordwell's current home at the
old Scouller farm



The haying crew



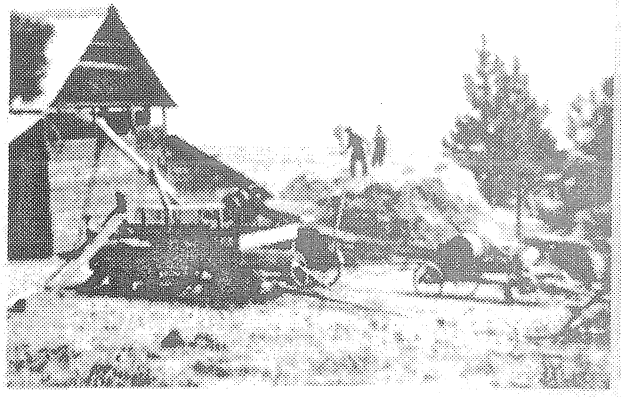
Pigs & new Orchard at the Portland-Goldendale farm



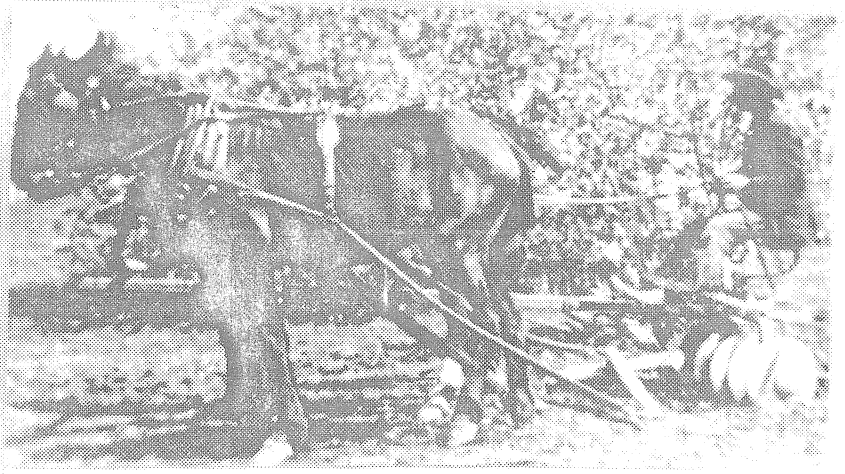
The haying crew at work



at the cookhouse

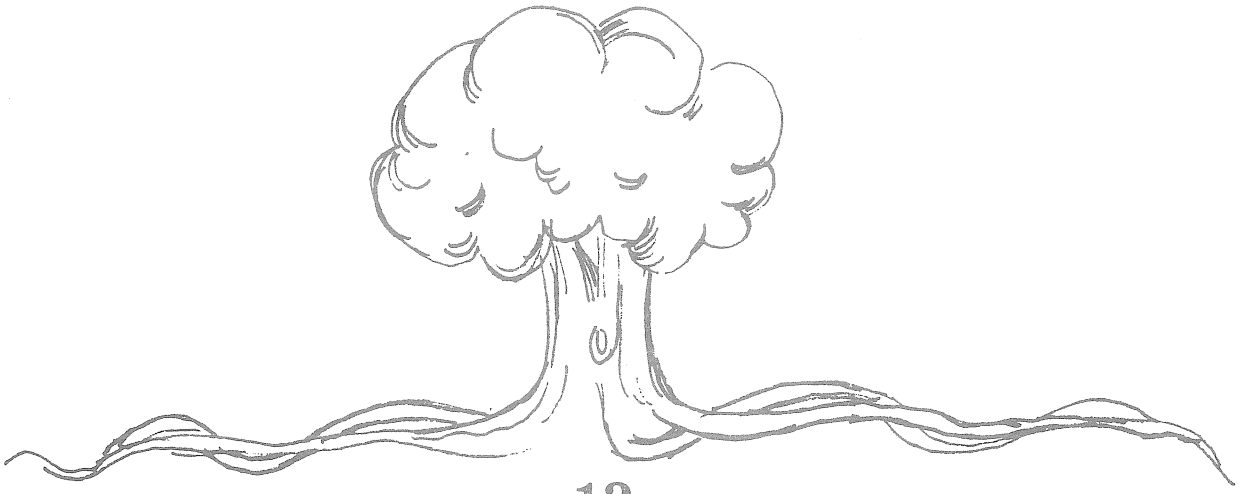


Winnie & Olaf on haystack



Discing time. Bill Rhodes hired hand at the Nelson Ranch

NOTES



12

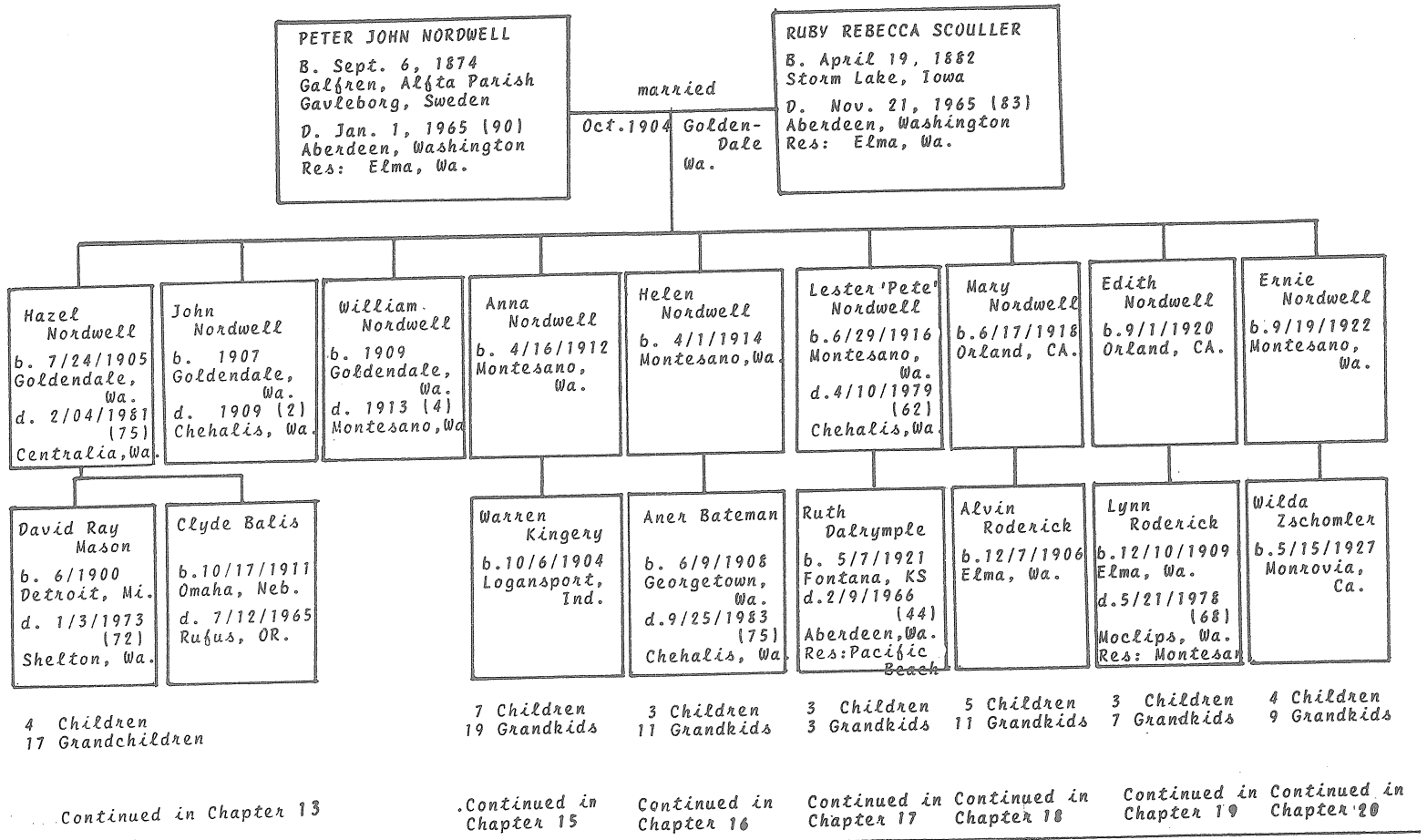
PETER JOHN & RUBY SCOULLER NORDWELL AND FAMILY
Hazel, John, William, Anna, Helen, Lester "Pete,"
Mary, Edith, Ernest

Pete and Ruby got married in October of 1904 in Goldendale. Pete was 29 at the time and Ruby, 22. Where did they live? Olaf's daughter, Winnie Stevens is quite sure they lived on an 82 acre homestead north of Goldendale on what is now Bloodgood Road. Olaf, had pointed it out when they drove by. This property which Winnie showed me appears to be the same as the place they applied for a homestead. It appears they lived there, possibly several years, and in December 1908 filed for the homestead (see Goldendale map in this chapter).

While in Goldendale they operated the farm and Pete is thought to have also operated a freight business with his horses and wagons. While there, their first children were born. Hazel in 1905, John in 1907, and William in 1909.

That homestead application did not sail. A letter from the U.S. Department of Interior dated June 27, 1910 implied that his homestead entry #13210 would be approved if he could provide proof of U.S. citizenship . . . something he couldn't do.

Pete must have been forewarned of the denial as the family in early 1910 had pulled stakes and moved to western Washington. First they stayed with his parents at their new farm south of Chehalis. Young John became very ill and died on the farm on April 25. After a short stay Pete and Ruby moved onto a 40 acre piece north of the Wynoochee River near Montesano. The current address is 183 Clemons Road (see Montesano map in this chapter). Actually they had a partner in the property. The Warranty Deed dated October 12, 1909 shows that P. J. Nordwell paid Alfred Gustafson, a bachelor, $1,000 for an undivided half-interest in the property. The land was covered with old growth fir and those trees became the family business. Instead of farming, Pete became a wood sawyer. A March 1965 news column in the Montesano Viadette, reflecting on 50 years earlier (1915) included: "Woodsawyer Nordwell and his dragsaw went to Reinkens Brothers on the Wynoochee. He will saw for other ranchers there before coming down the river." At home, they cleared the land selling firewood in town. His firewood deliveries, made in a horse-drawn wagon, supplied the courthouse, a couple of lawyers, and many others in town.



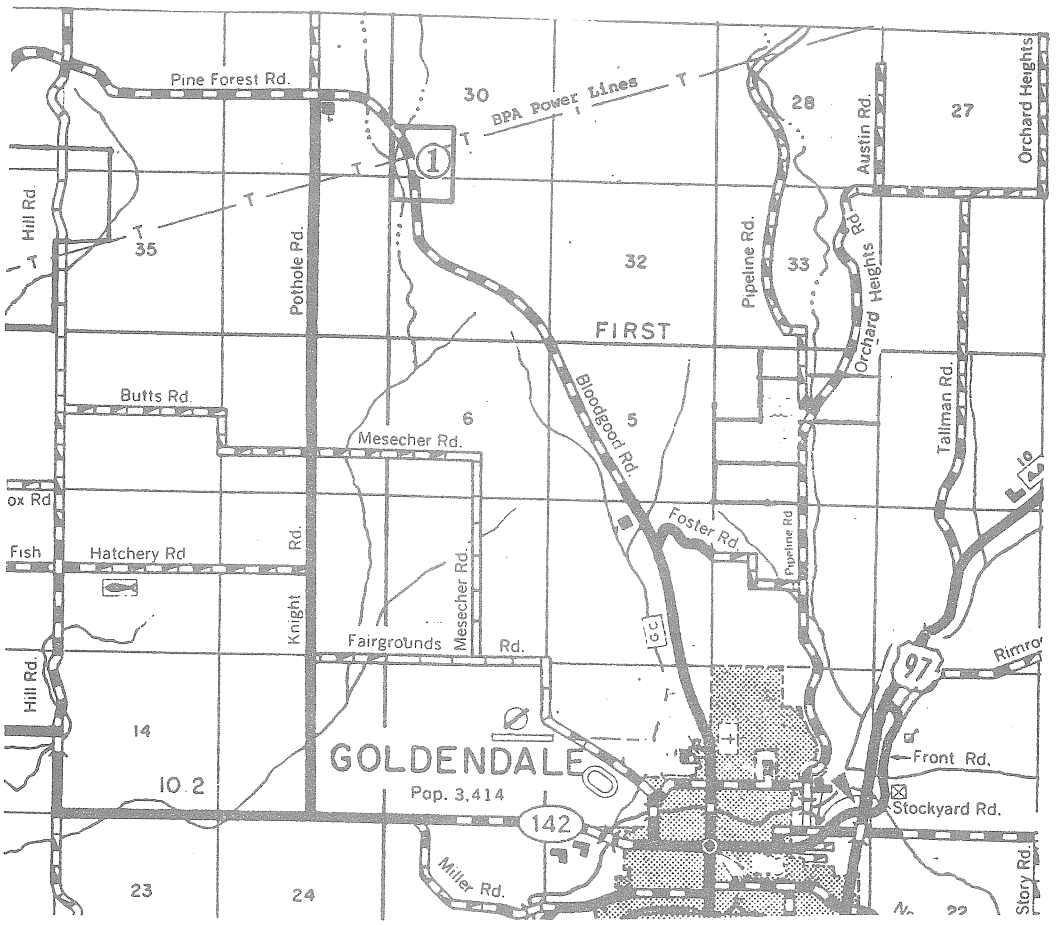
August, 1985

All dates are month/day/year

#,s in brackets indicate age at death

GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Peter J. and Ruby Nordwell's** 82 acre farm and Homestead applied for in December 1908 but denied in June 1910. . . . just over 4 miles north of town on Bloodgood Rd. Watch for the power lines which bisect the property.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Goldendale map in Chapter 11.

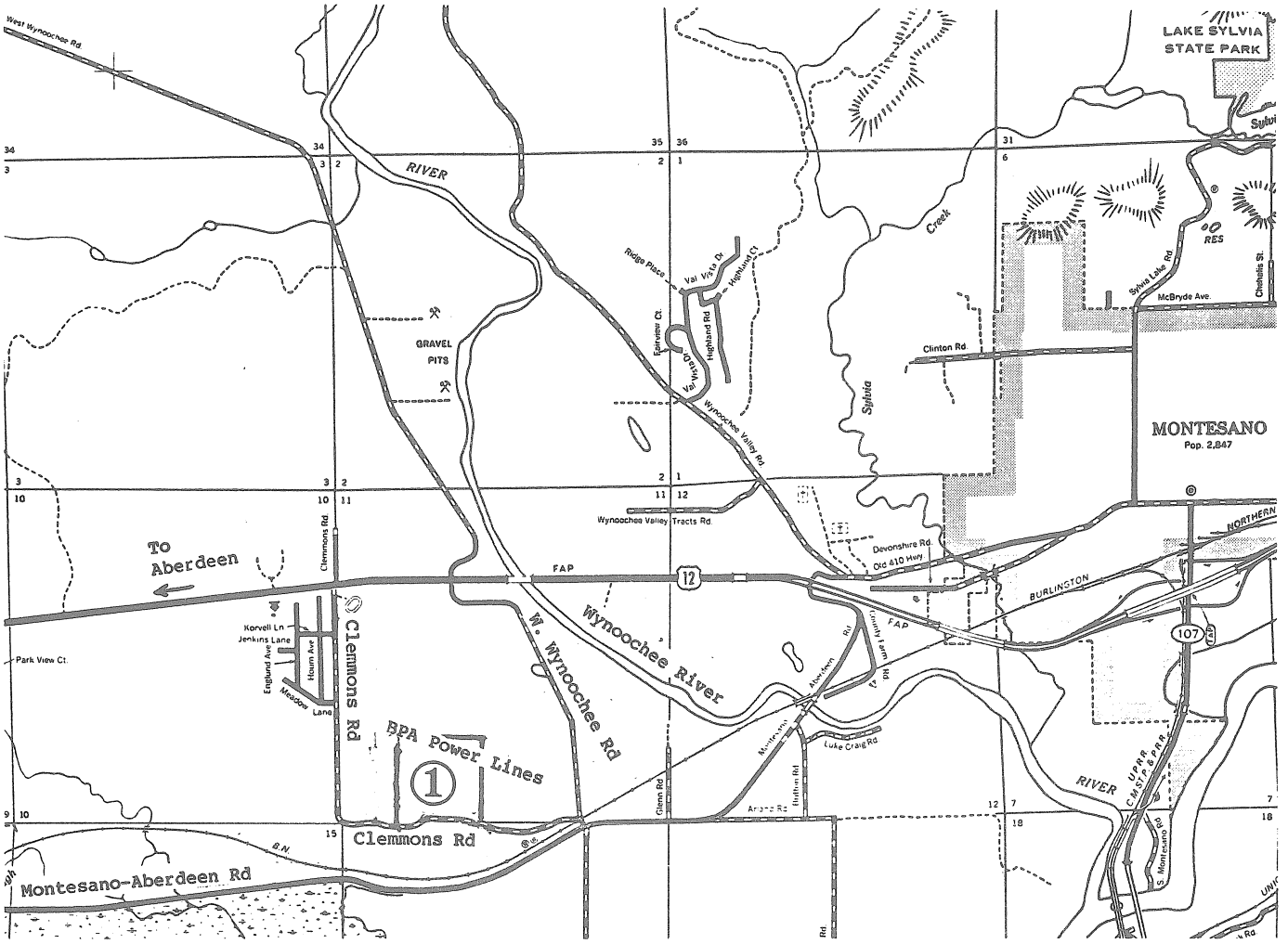
After his experience in Goldendale, Pete apparently decided it was time to take out a U.S. citizenship. On January 16, 1911 he applied for citizenship and two and one half years later, at age 38 he became a bona fide citizen. Like most immigrants he was proud to be an American. So much so that when his granddaughter Gladys Mason asked him to say something in Swedish he'd say: "No, I'm an American."

At Montesano diphtheria claimed four year old William in 1913 and there were three new arrivals. Anna in 1912, Helen in 1914 and Lester "Pete" in 1916.

Their oldest child, Hazel, had mentioned that at Montesano the family prospered. The kids got store boughten clothes and other luxuries. But after seven years in the wood business it was time for a change.

MONTESANO, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



(1) **Peter and Ruby Nordwell's** 40 acre home, 1909 to 1917. Held an undivided half interest in the property with Alfred Gustafson. The birthplace of Anna, Helen, and Lester Nordwell.

Directions: From Montesano go west on Highway 12 toward Aberdeen. Cross the Wynoochee River Bridge, go ½ mile and turn left onto Clemmons Rd. Go to the 90° corner, a ¼ mile past this is the property's west boundary. Currently there's a barn, a long paved driveway at this point, and 3 ranch style homes backed against the drive. They're on the property. Note that the powerlines cut across the back. The current owner, Tom Eaton, lives in the yellow house at 183 Clemmons Rd. The east boundary is where the road heads down the steep hill. The old house there was built after the Nordwells moved away.

No. 527

NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the Superior Court of Washington for Chehalis County

The petition of Peter John Macdonald hereby filed, respectfully showeth

First. My place of residence is Alder Montesano Chehalis County Washington (Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

Second. My occupation is Farming

Third. I was born on the 2nd day of October anno Domini 1874 at Alfa Lochaber

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Liverpool England on or about the 17th day of May anno Domini 1887 and arrived in the United States, at the port of Buffalo New York on the 30th day of May anno Domini 1887 on the vessel (Cassandra Bremenhaven) to Quebec Canada thence to Buffalo NY by C P R R (If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 16th day of January anno Domini 1911 at Montesano Washington in the Superior Court of Aberdeen for Chehalis County

Sixth. I am married. My wife's name is Ruby Rebecca Macdonald in Ocean and now resides at near Montesano Chehalis County Washington (Give number, street, city or town, and State.) She was born

I have 3 children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows: Hazel Agnes Macdonald Born July 24 1905 in Gehlendale Wash; Alexander Edward Macdonald Born Nov. 26 1909 Montesano Wash; Anna Marie Macdonald Born April 16 1912 Montesano Wash; all reside Living at Montesano Wash

Seventh. I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Gustavus V King of Sweden of whom at this time I am a subject, and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States.

Eighth. I am able to speak the English language.

Ninth. I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least, immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the 30th day of May anno Domini 1887 and in the State of Washington continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since the 7th day of July anno Domini 1901, being a residence within this State of at least one year next preceding the date of this petition.

Tenth. I have not heretofore made petition for citizenship to any court.

~~I made petition for citizenship to the Court of on the day of , which petition was denied by the said Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit:~~

~~And the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.~~

Attached hereto and made a part of this petition are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States and the certificate from the Department of Commerce and Labor, together with my affidavit and the affidavits of the two witnessing witnesses thereto, required by law. Wherefore your petitioner prays that he may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America.

Peter John Macdonald
(Complete and true signature of petitioner.)

Declaration of Intention and Certificate of Landing from Department of Commerce and Labor filed this 20th day of February 1913

AFFIDAVITS OF PETITIONER AND WITNESSES.

State of Washington }
County of Chehalis } ss.

The aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the petitioner in the above-entitled proceedings; that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof; that the said petition is signed with his full, true name; that the same is true of his own knowledge except as to matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Peter John Macdonald
(Complete and true signature of petitioner.)

John T Scoullar, occupation Farming, residing at Mill Yakima Washington

and O Fred Pearson, occupation Laborer, residing at Montesano Washington

each being severally, duly, and respectively sworn, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the United States of America; that he has personally known Peter John Macdonald the petitioner above mentioned, to have resided in the United States continuously immediately preceding the date of filing his petition, since the 9th day of September anno Domini 1907, and in the State in which the above-entitled petition is made continuously since the 9th day of September anno Domini 1907; and that he has personal knowledge that the said petitioner is a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and that the petitioner is in every way qualified, in his opinion, to be admitted a citizen of the United States.

John T. Scoullar
(Signature of witness.)

Fred Pearson
(Signature of witness.)

[SEAL.]

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above-named petitioner and witnesses this 20th day of February anno Domini 19 13

Percy Kenneson, Clerk.

By 125, Deputy Clerk.

11—6927

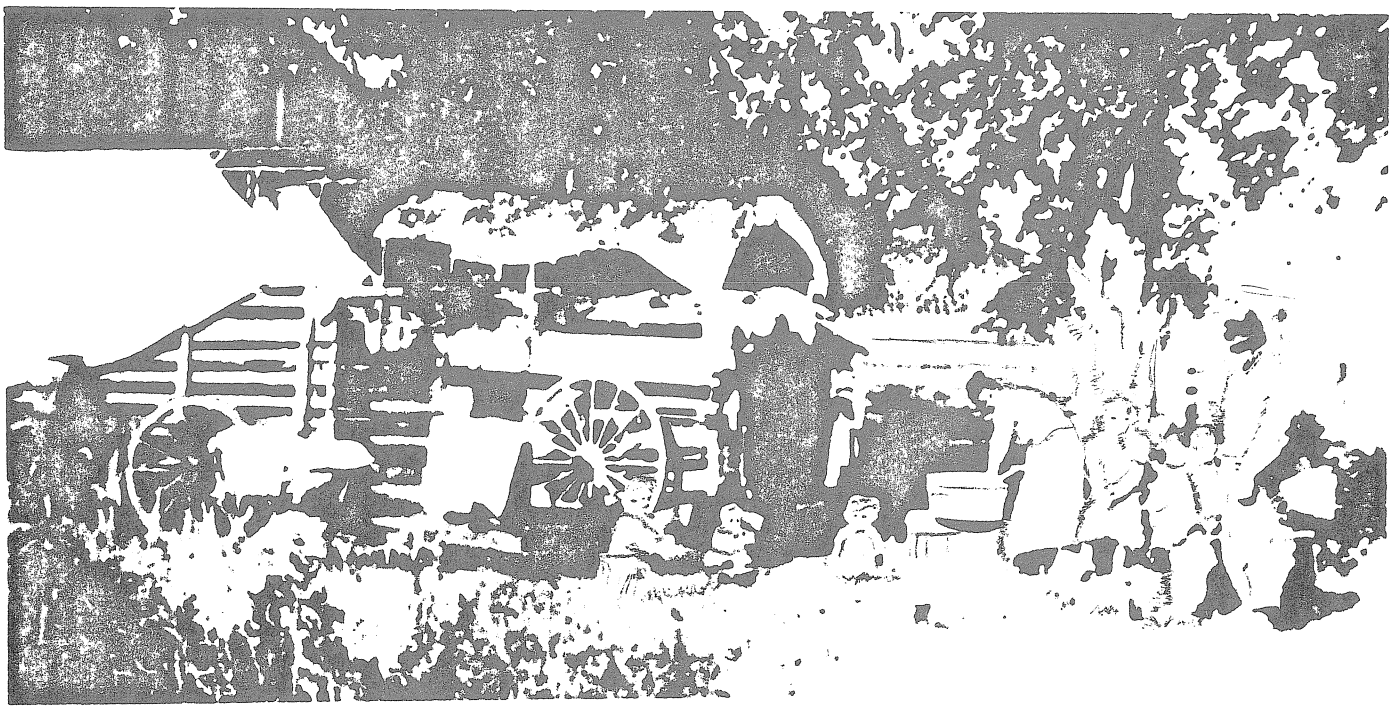
[OVER]

The family packed up and took the train to Orland, California which is about 110 miles north of Sacramento (see Orland map in this chapter). This time they took up alfalfa farming. They apparently rented a place and planted a couple of places they rented. The work was hard, the sun hot, the house was a shack and life stark. Pete, who was but 5 feet 4 inches tall and 140 pounds, found that working hard did not guarantee a profit. After three years, and I'm sure a very deep tan to go along with his blue eyes and brown hair, the farm went belly up.

That year, 1921, they headed back to western Washington. Why they came back to the northwest in not certain. Pete and Ruby's families were here of course and Pete apparently discovered the central California heat was too much of a good thing . . . no air conditioned homes and tractors in those days. Anyhow, it was moving time for the family, now eight in number with Mary (1918) and Edith (1920) the newest members.

This time packing meant putting everything and everybody into two covered wagons. Their destination a 155 acre farm near Matlock in Mason County in Washington; over 700 miles to the north (see Matlock map in this chapter). Ruby drove the wagon pulled by Topsy and King, a new team of work horses they bought for the trip. They left in May or June of 1921 and at about 10 miles a day the trip took all summer. For the most part, the roads were but cow paths or abandoned railroad grades and at best a gravel road wide enough for one lane of traffic. The roads likely were shared occasionally with the latest technology, the automobile which gained considerable popularity after World War I.

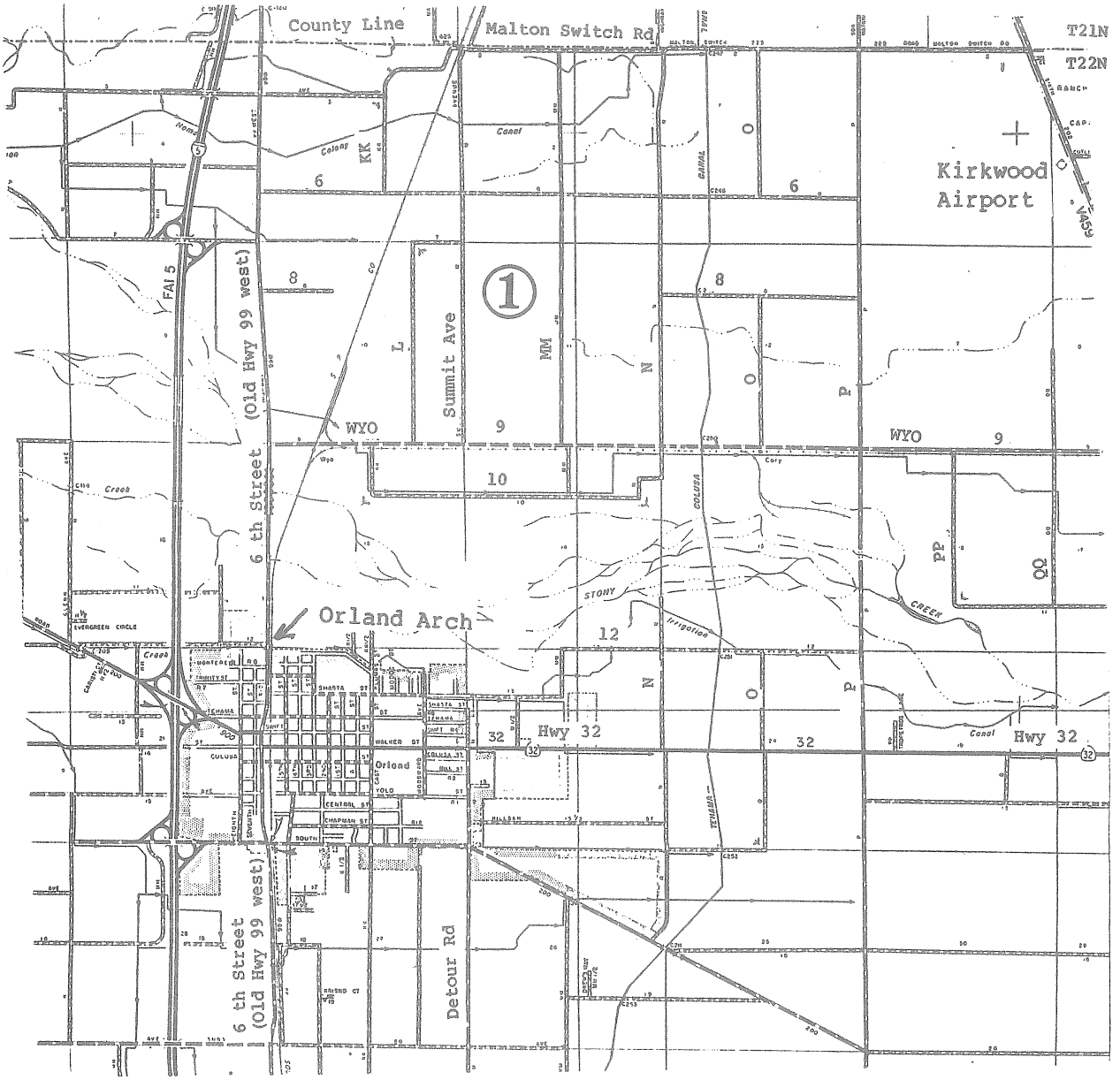
Each night they camped along the road. When the laundry and other chores piled up, they stopped for two or three days to catch up. There were no laundromats, of course just wash tubs, washboards and clothes lines. They also had to cook their own meals and along the way stop long enough for the kids to run behind a tree or whatever.



Washday . . . July 4th, 1921. Pete, Ruby & their 6 kids

ORLAND, CALIFORNIA

Approximate Scale: 1-1/8 inches = 1 mile



(1) Alfalfa farm of **Peter and Ruby Nordwell** from 1918 to 1921. General location only! Birthplace of Mary and Edith Nordwell. Hazel went to high school one year at Orland. The younger kids went to a small rural school. From here the family moved to the Matlock farm in Mason County, Washington.

Directions: Requests from Glenn, Tehama Counties and a title company failed to locate the property. Apparently they rented the property. In 1971 Hazel, Mary and Helen located the farm. Then it was just a field, but neither remember the specific location. The general area lies north and east of town. From I-5 at Orland go into Orland. Just a hop off I-5 turn left onto 6th Street (old Hwy. 99) and go through the arch that says "leaving Orland, California," go a mile or two north. From there it's a mile or two to the right (east) . . . does anyone know where it is?

One night when Pete was stomping around the brush setting up camp he heard a hiss, then another, and yet another. It was a rattler! He showed his quickness and a bit of temper as he grabbed a bent but sturdy stick and clubbed the snake to death. He cut off the rattles and gave them to Ruby who showed them to everyone for years and years.

Along the way, the kids had fun but also tended to get a little bored in their cramped space. "Pete," now five years old, loved to sing and he apparently took it upon himself to provide the entertainment. Everything went along smoothly, that is, until they came to a town and Pete kept singing. Hazel, now a 16 year old, was embarrassed with her little brother singing in public, and a family squabble ensued.

The Matlock farm was partially cleared but they went to work clearing more. They ran their cattle on the open range and the Carstairs Prairie for extra feed. They settled into the large two-story cedar home near the road. The road is the same one that's there today. Originally it was a railroad grade used in the logging days. Logging railroads were everywhere at one time but were costly and lost favor with the advent of the log truck. Many, like this one, was converted to roads. The house had huge rooms and near room size walk-in closets. Closets large and dark enough to scare the little ones. They started a beef herd, got a few milk cows and chickens, planted a garden, and foraged blackberries and what have you. Needless to say they always had plenty to eat, but when it came to money they had very little.

About a year after they arrived at Matlock, Ernie, their last child was born on September 19, 1922. Hazel their oldest, at age 17 married Ray Mason a couple of months later.

Actually it wasn't until December 1923 that Pete and Ruby fully committed to buying the property. The deed record shown below details the transaction which called for a balloon payment in late 1929.

DEED RECORD NUMBER 42
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

107

41698
Land Contract
Ed Adams, et ux, and John Wraith,
to
P. J. Nordwell.
Filed Dec.21,1923, at 10:00 A.M.
Req. P. J. Nordwell.
E. L. Kellogg, Auditor,
By Ida Rex, Deputy.

* *

* IT IS HEREBY MUTUALLY AGREED by and between Ed Adams, and Sarah Adams his wife. owners of an undivided nine-twelfths interest in the hereinafter described real estate, and John Wraith, a widower, formerly the husband of Annie V. Wraith, now deceased, owner of an undivided three-twelfths interest in said real estate, parties of the first part, and P. J. Nordwell, a married man, party of the second part, that the parties of the first part have sold to the party of the second part, and the party of the second part has purchased of the parties of the first part, that certain real estate situated in Mason County, Washington, particularly described as follows, towit:

The Southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 19 North, Range 6 West, W. M., excepting therefrom a tract in square form in the Northwest corner of the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of said Section, containing five acres, with appurtenances thereunto belonging, on the following terms:

The purchase price for said land is $2800.00, of which the sum of $400.00 has been paid as earnest, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by the parties of the first part, and the further sums to be paid as follows:

$100.00 on or before October 10, 1924;
$100.00 on or before October 10, 1925;
$100.00 on or before October 10, 1926;
$100.00 on or before October 10, 1927;
$100.00 on or before October 10, 1928; and the balance of said purchase price, or the sum of $1900.00, on or before October 10, 1929, together with interest on all deferred payments of principal at the rate of 7% per annum from this date until paid, said interest to be paid at the time of making each payment of principal and in addition thereto. All payments of principal and interest to be made to first parties at Butte, Montana, free of exchange, or at such other point as first parties may designate from time to time. The second party shall have the option of increasing said annual payments, should he desire, in multiples of $50.00, and he shall have the right to pay this contract in full at any time with interest to time of payment and receive the deed hereinafter provided for.

For the most part Pete always worked for himself. But when they first were in Matlock he took a job with the Shaffer Brothers. Logging was in full swing as the nations economy roared through the 1920's. After a year though he became dissatisfied and went back to farming full time.

Most of the kids clothes were home made. Ruby would buy a bolt of cloth, measure, cut and sew it to a finished product. The girls got dresses and the boys stylish knickers for school. Unfortunately for "Pete" and Ernie the knickers were sometimes made from the same material as the dresses. The result . . . the boys were teased to death. Ruby canned hundreds of quarts of food every year, washed the clothes, cooked three meals a day and did all the household chores of the day. Her heart, however, was outside. She was tall, thin and an outdoor type. So when her younguns were old enough to take over inside, she headed outside, but stayed close enough to assure the kids stayed out of mischief. She was elbow to elbow with Pete in the farm work. They argued a lot about how things should be done, but tons of work did get done by both. She drove the wagons, did a lot of the milking, helped build the barn, worked in the fields and gardens and who knows what else.

In the summer of 1928 a fire started in the barn and soon it burned to the ground. The next spring a chimney fire spread and engulfed their cedar home. They tried but could do nothing to stop it. All eight of them squeezed into the garage and they started over.

Pete rented a steam engine sawmill and everybody pitched in to rebuild. The new house was a large, two-story affair, with a full basement. This is the house that later was to be Warren and Anna Kingery's home. The original house was across the road from the new one.

The late 1920's brought more bad news. The Wall Street crash on 1929 reached out to Pete like it did his brother Olaf in Goldendale. The loss of a market for his beef and milk meant no cash to pay the mortgage. Actually, if things had been going well financially they would have had the money saved for the balloon payment. Possibly they could have lost it in a bank failure . . . but that's not likely. They lived from day to day cash wise and when they did have money Pete hid it outside in an old stump. Banks were too far away and not trusted by Pete. Losing the place was probably inevitable at this point but they were able to hang onto the property for several years. If my math is correct raising $2,000 cash then would be the same as raising $35,000 today. Next to impossible when your credit is bad, the economy is at an all time low, you had medical bills, you have little if any cash, and no job! Official word of foreclosure came via an "Amended Lis Pendens" filed April 16, 1936 (see below). The fateful day was August 17, 1936. At the sheriff's sale the place sold for $2,541.95

77659

Amended Lis Pendens

Federal Land Bank of Spokane

vs.

Peter J. Nordwell et ux, et al

Filed Apr. 16, 1936 9:33 A. M.

Req. A. L. Bell

Harry Deyette, Auditor

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MASON

The Federal Land Bank of Spokane, a corporation, Plaintiff,

vs.

Peter J. Nordwell, also known as P. J. Nordwell, and Ruby R. Nordwell, husband and wife; Sarah Adams, and Elma National Farm Loan Association, a corporation, Defendants.

AMENDED LIS PENDENS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Federal Land Bank of Spokane, a corporation, plaintiff in the above entitled action, has instituted an action against Peter J. Nordwell, also known as P. J. Nordwell, and Ruby R. Nordwell, husband and wife; Sarah Adams and Elma National Farm Loan Association, a corporation, Defendants.

That the object of said action is to foreclose a mortgage executed by Peter J. Nordwell, also known as P.J. Nordwell, and Ruby R. Nordwell, husband and wife, to The Federal Land Bank of Spokane, for the sum of $2000.00, dated August 28, 1926, which mortgage is recorded in the office of the County Auditor of Mason County, Washington, in Book 37 of Mortgages, page 79, and covers the hereinafter described real property.

The further object of said action is to foreclose and bar the rights of the defendants, and each of them, and all persons claiming by, through or under them, or any of them, in and to said real property or any part thereof.

The real property described in said mortgage and affected by this Lis Pendens is described as follows, to-wit:

The Southwest Quarter of Section Four, Township Nineteen North, Range Six, West of the Willamette Meridian, excepting therefrom a tract in square form in the Northwest Corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section, containing 5 acres, all situated in Mason County, State of Washington.

Dated at Spokane, Washington, this 2nd day of April, 1936.

Henry R. Newton

Post Office Address:
610 Main Avenue
Spokane, Washington.

Earl C. Dorfner
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

During the depression the logging companies in the area also felt the squeeze. Much of the land they had logged off was abandoned. The effect was that the County ended up with lots of property which could be bought for the price of back taxes. Pete and Ruby bought the 40 acres on the corner from the County. The new place was next door to the place they had to turn back, but it had no buildings. So, with only two kids at home they built a small house this time. While they built, they rented the place they had lost.

MARION BOOK NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION EXPIRES SEPT. 3, 1941

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle

$1.10 Documentary United States Internal Revenue Stamps affixed, cut and cancelled.
$1.00 Tax on Conveyances Stamp Tax Commission State of Washington affixed, cut, cancelled.

98710.

Warranty Deed

Weyerhaeuser Timber Co.

to

P. J. Nordwell

Filed Jul 11 1941 9 04 A M

Req. P. J. Nordwell

Harry Deyette, Auditor

WEYERHAEUSER TIMBER COMPANY

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

This Deed, Made this 21st day of June, 1941, by the WEYERHAEUSER TIMBER COMPANY, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington, party of the first part, and P. J. Nordwell, of Elma, Washington, party of the second part, WITNESSETH:

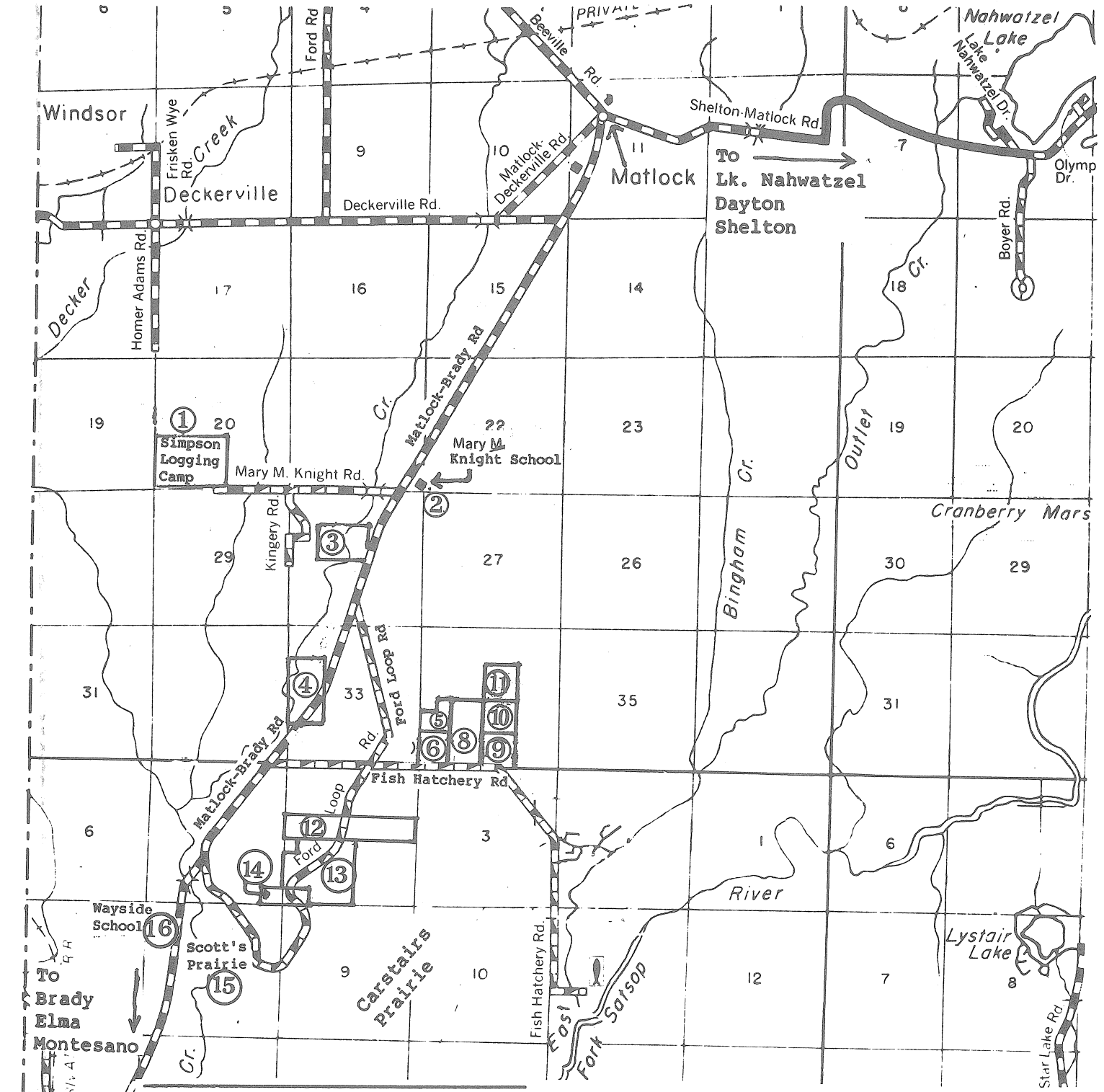
That the first party, in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars ($10.00) and other valuable considerations unto it paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does Grant, Bargain and Convey unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, the following described tract of land situate in the County of Mason in the State of Washington, that is to say:

Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter (SE¼ of SE¼) of Section Five (5), Township Nineteen (19) North, Range Six (6) West of W.M., containing 40.00 acres, more or less; reserving to the party of the first part, its successors and assigns, the right to use the South and East thirty (30) feet thereof for road purposes, together with the right to grant an easement to Mason County, Washington, for a public highway thereon,

together with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, subject to any easement or right-of-way in the public for any public roads

MATLOCK, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



Directions: Matlock is about 15 miles west of Shelton Shelton-Matlock Rd. and 20 miles from Elma and Montesano vis Brady, take the Brady-Matlock Rd..

Use the MM Knight School, which is 3 miles south of Matlock, as a starting and reference point to find the home sites. Many of the roads are still gravel.

(1) **Hazel and Ray Mason** . . . Simpson Logging Camp where they lived when Gladys was born in 1926.

(2) **Edith and Lynn Roderick** rented a house from the school while Lynn was maintenance man, 1941-1951. Birthplace of Sandra Sue. The house is no longer there but was the third or fourth in from the road on the south side of the school building.

(3) **Helen and Aner Bateman's** home when they were first married, 1932 until 1943 when they moved to Dryad. Birthplace of Norma, Gail and Asa Bateman. They shared the 80 acre farm with Aner's parents Hatti and Asa who moved there in 1915. The current address is Rt. 1, Box 138, Elma, WA.

(4) **Edith and Lynn Roderick's** 80 acre property and home from 1951 to 1958. From here they moved to Montesano. The current address is Rt. 1, Box 139, Elma, WA.

(5) **Hazel and Ray Mason?** The 1935 Metsker map shows this 30 acres belonged to D R. Mason.

(6) **Hazel and Ray Mason.** Thought to be the site of the tent home they lived in from 1930-1931; 18 months.

(5) & (6) **Peter J. Nordwell's** 70 acres which he later gave to his son Ernie. Was **Ernie and Wilda Nordwell's** home from 1949 to 1953. From here they moved to McDonald Creek near Port Angeles.

(8) **Peter J. Nordwell's** 80 acres which he later gave to his son Lester, "Pete." Was **"Pete" and Ruth Nordwell's** home from 1949-1955. "Pete" added the 40 acres of (9) to the property along the way which also belonged to his dad before he got it. Birthplace of John and Lessie Nordwell. From here the family moved to Pacific Beach.

(9) See (8)

(10) **Peter J. Nordwell's** 40 acres purchased in 1920.

(11) **Peter J. Nordwell's** 40 acres sold in 1937.

(12) **Hazel and Ray Mason.** The Quick place they rented from 1931 and until the house burned down in 1933. From here they moved to Shelton.

(13) **Peter and Ruby Nordwell** 155 acre farm. This is the original Nordwell Matlock farm. They lived there from 1921 to 1937 when they lost it during the depression. The original house burned down in 1928. They built a new house which became the home of daughter **Anna and Warren Kingery** from 1942 to 1959. The current address Rt. 1, Box 143, Elma, WA. From here the Kingery's moved to Elma. Birthplace of Ernie Nordwell and Orlen Kingery. Warren's brothers each had 80 acre farms on the Mary M. Knight Rd. near the Kingery Rd.

(14) **Peter and Ruby Nordwell**, 40 acres, second Matlock property and home from 1936 to 1956 when they moved to Elma. The current address is Rt. 1, Box 144, Elma, WA.

(15) **Hazel and Ray Mason** . . . Scott's place where they lived when Hugh was born in 1924.

(16) Site of the **Wayside School** attended by the Nordwell kids until 1926 when it was consolidated with others into the Mary M. Knight school.

The effects of the depression were soon over, they settled into their new home. Later, Pete was able to trade a team of work horses, a wagon and harness for forty acres on what is now called the Fish Hatchery Road and then he bought another forty acres next to that place for a dollar an acre. He gave one of these to "Pete," which is where "Pete" and Ruth lived for years. He gave the other to Ernie.

Daily life at Matlock was busy and the work was hard. Cutting and splitting wood for the wood stove, care of a big garden, berry picking, cow milking, sewing, field work, cooking, and plenty of canning. Up to 200 quarts of blackberries were canned every year. Trips to Yakima in the family's Model T pickup brought back boxes of fruit, which meant 300 to 400 more quarts to can. The garden produce was canned. They didn't have any luck drying or smoking beef so it was also canned . . . the humid climate would spoil it before spring. The pork was fried and packed in lard.

While the kids lived at home they had those fun things to do, chores. Anna became chief cook and bottle washer. The favorite chore of most everybody was to bring the cows in. It meant a horse ride and a lot more excitement than washing dishes or sweeping the floor. For spending money, the children could hoe the long rows of strawberries. Five cents a row was the going rate which would buy a lot of firecrakers for the Fourth of July.

Being mischievous was difficult for the Nordwell kids. What with both parents at home day and night, plenty of chores to keep them busy and few, if any, neighbors. There just weren't many opportunities. But when Pete and Ruby headed to town (Montesano), look out! Fortunately, they only went once or twice a month. The favorite misadventure was to take the Model T or the sedan, whichever was left home, for a spin. Sometimes, a wild spin. The keys were always left in the vehicles. Thieves were far and few between and they apparently never imagined their kids would drive without permission. "Pete" did most of the driving. One time, he let Helen drive and she ran off the road, which was narrow, graveled and rough. They hit a log and the sudden stop sent Edith and Mary flying. "Pete's" comment was: "Stop crying or you can't come anymore!" Another time, the transmission went out about a mile from home. After the initial panic they heave-hoed and finally rolled the car into its spot in the garage. They prayed dad wouldn't figure out what happened. Yet another time, George Sackrider was along for the ride and the end of his nose was cut off by a branch as they flew across the prairie. Through all of this, Hazel and Anna stayed home, anguishing over the whole situation. Pete and Ruby never found out. If they knew, they never brought it up to the kids.

Social life centered around the family, the Matlock Grange, church, and the children, of course, had their friends at school. At home, the games of finch and checkers were favorites. There was an old hand crank Victrola to provide music. The kids also raced the work horses to and from the fields, or

wherever. If you wanted to win, you got on Topsy; she won most every time, not necessarily because she was the fastest, but because she was the meanest and would bite King if he tried to pass!

The Grange was a community gathering place. Pete and Ruby were involved in many of the social activities but seldom went to the dances. Pete held most of the club offices and at one time was the Grange's representative at the state convention.

1936 was a rough year. They of course lost their property and home. Earlier, a spring day sadly turned out to be one of the most important days for Ruby . . . she fell off the porch. Her ankle twisted, bent and she ended up with a compound fracture. She wore a full cast for several weeks. When she complained about it being itchy and not feeling right the doctors explained that was normal. Eventually the cast came off . . . only to find an infection out of control. The next several months were spent in and out of the Shelton Hospital fighting the infection and trying to save the leg, but to no avail. The leg was amputated just below the knee. In a letter dated December 18, 1937 to Olaf and Olive Nordwell, Ruby wrote:

> " . . . My leg is all healed now but it cramps and hurts more so at night till I can't sleep and hate to see night come. I can walk by my self now on my crutches if I am careful. Well it is almost Christmas again. We got a fine Christmas present from our neighbors and friends, a check for $120.55 to help buy my leg. It will cost $180.

The Matlock community held a benefit to raise the money. Early in 1938 she apparently got her wooden leg. A hazard of having an artificial leg is scrapes, sores, bumps and bruises. If you get one you're immobilized. On May 25, 1941 Ruby wrote: "My leg got skinned so I can't wear my other leg and can't get around at all. Hope it heals up soon." Fifty years later Ruby's son-in-law Alvin Roderick got an artificial leg. While technology has supposedly improved he's found that with his diabetes, bumps and sores are an ongoing problem.

The loss of her leg kept Ruby indoors and apparently led her into a more traditional domestic role. To me, as a grandson, I remember her most as an enthusiastic person who was always working on a beautiful detailed embroidery item. She also knitted and made quilt tops. She taught her granddaughter Gloria Roderick how to knit after they had moved to Elma. She started showing her craft at the Matlock Grange Fair, often winning first or second place ribbon. Ruby enjoyed going to church and went to the Christian Missionary Alliance with Warren and Anna Kingery. Pete joined the church after they moved to Elma.

By the late 1930's their five girls were grown, married and living elsewhere. Ernie married in 1945 and "Pete" in 1949. "Pete" helped on the farm until then. The stories of Pete and Ruby's children are presented in Chapters 13 through 20. Pete and Ruby were tied closely to their family.

From her letters you could tell that Ruby liked having her children living nearby. They did a lot too for the kids. "Pete" and Ernie were given land, as mentioned earlier. When Anna and Warren were in Oregon and times were tough. Pete and Ruby encouraged them to buy their original Matlock farm next door and loaned them 10 cows. The early 1940's of course brought World War II. A war in which everybodys freedom was at stake. Pete and Ruby, like most had family in the service; "Pete" and Ernie, a grandson, Hugh Mason, and Melburn Nordwell, a nephew and son-in-law Ray Mason.

The federal government's Rural Electrification program started lighting up the countryside in the 1930's. It reached Matlock and the Nordwell's in 1942. The fact is Pete helped deliver the power. That is he bid on and got the contract for the 7+ miles of poles needed to run the wires between the Bateman place near school and the fish hatchery near Schaffer's Park. In the 1940's and 50's Pete sold trees and peeler poles from his place.

Pete also loved to peel cascara bark. He'd come upon a good tree, peel it, roll the bark up and put it behind the saddle. He peeled bark until he moved to Elma. Hunting and fishing meant little to him. Outdoors to him, as mentioned before, was riding herd on the cattle and all the plain hard work, satisfaction and fun that went with farming.

Farming, of course, had its hazards. Getting bucked off a horse was always good for a laugh, if no one was hurt. The winter of 1950 was severe by Matlock standards. The temperatures got down to minus 15 degrees and the snow, which stuck around for over two months, was nearly 3 feet deep. The first snow brought two feet of the white stuff; so Pete went out to bring the cattle in from across the East Fork of the Satsop River. He got the cows into the river and as he started across, his horse slipped and fell, and Pete tumbled into the icy water. He grabbed for the horses tail but missed. The horse and cattle were across the river, and he was floating downstream. Before long he grabbed a branch and pulled himself to shore. Soaking wet and nearly frozen, he took off his clothes and rung the water out of his wool longjohns the best he could. With his clothes back on, he began yelling and yelled some more. Roy Cassidy, a neighbor who was bringing in his own cattle, heard him but thought he was hollering at his cows, so he went on his way. With darkness and minus 4 degree temperature approaching, Grampa headed for the nearest cabin. He got to Otto Hansen's cabin and quickly built a fire. He tried to take off his boots but found they were frozen to his feet. He put his feet by the flame and waited for the thaw.

Dry and somewhat rested, though still weak from the ordeal, Pete headed home at day break. That morning, his horse showed up at home wet and reins dragging on the ground. Everyone suspected the worse and took off to find him. Pete finally found a log across the river. Instead of trying to walk across the snow and ice covered log he decided to play it safe . . . he straddled it, clearing his way as he crossed, inch by inch. Finally, the searchers found him. "Pete," who was driving snowplow for the County at the time, heard where his dad was and took off in the snowplow across the prairie to bring him home. Warren, in the meantime, had come across the cattle and

drove them home. Pete, thanks to his wool longjohns and the cabin, only lost a big toe nail and lots of energy, though it took him more than two weeks to fully recover!

Pete continued to farm into the mid 1950's. As always, the cattle were pastured on the open range during the summer, saving the fields to make hay for the winter's feed. The cattle were usually brought home before hunting season. This all sounds simple and straight forward but there were problems. On March 15, 1942 in a letter to Olive Nordwell, Ruby wrote:

> " . . . someone that don't live here had turned out a herd of horses (which have) eaten up the feed till the cattle got so poor . . . They hauled in a cow and little calf today. I guess they will be all right now, but the others will have to be gotten in to and it takes lots of feed."

Hunting season also started to be a big problem as far as Ruby was concerned. She liked hunting season because it meant many of her kids and their families came up to hunt and visit, but feared the danger it brought. On October 29, 1950 she wrote:

> "We had 22 here last Sunday. Hazel and family and my grandson and family from Portland and 3 families from Seattle . . ."

> "There is one more week of elk season I am always glad when it is all over it is dangerous, we are hardly safe in our houses and the cattle are often killed, one man was shot in his car this year. The birds and deer are so tame they come right in the yard and those city guys will shot any where . . . "

Unlike his brother Olaf, Pete didn't like to hunt. He, of course, had plenty of steaks with all his beef and then there was always more work that needed attention. Its been told that he simply didn't like guns or want anything to do with them. Just why, considering his earlier adventures, remains a mystery.

Pete was a good man but sometimes difficult to work with, even for the kids. He was quick to point out mistakes. To people he didn't care much for he didn't hesitate to criticize; about their drinking or whatever. Ruby was the opposite in this regard; she liked everybody and from her eyes few, if any, could do wrong. Pete never drank in his married life . . . maybe a beer or two out in the barn at most. He gave hints that his single life may have been different. He reportedly told Hazel that he couldn't hold his liquor. There was an impression that something serious happened that caused him to quit outright. Some speculate that his dislike of guns and liquor were somehow linked.

Pete was an independent soul and didn't hold well to laws and institutions. He wouldn't put his money in banks as mentioned before. Federal income taxes began reaching into the public pocket in 1917. Pete,

however, never ever filed an income tax return, even though he should of. He never understood why Helen and Aner bothered to file a return in the late 1930's. When he was older and lived in Elma he drove after his license wasn't renewed. Part of his independence was related to his working for himself and living in relatively remote areas. Or was it the other way around? He of course always worked hard. He farmed only with four-legged horse power. By the 1940's Topsy and King had been replaced with Molly and Dick.

On the lighter side, Pete, built his reputation as a notorious driver in the 1930's and 1940's. One afternoon Pete drove Ruby, Beulah, Helen, Gail and Norma to town in the pickup. The adults crowded inside, Gail and Norma dangling their legs off the back. At a stop sign, Pete popped the clutch. Another sudden start, only this time Gail was left at the stop sign. A piece down the road Ruby elbows Pete and yells "you bumped one of the kids out, you fool!" He also had the habit of coming up to a stop sign, stopping and taking off, but without looking. I remember this particularly well after they moved to Elma. Actually, he was never a speedster and he certainly had a good driving record. Far better than 90 percent of us who were worried about his driving always watched in amazement at how well he survived out there on the road.

In October 1954 Pete and Ruby celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the Matlock Grange. Ten years later they celebrated their 60th in Elma.

In 1956 after 35 years at Matlock and a lifetime of farming, Pete at age 81 and Ruby at age 74 retired. They moved to Elma to a small house at 212 14th Street. Nine years later, both passed away. Both had spent their last several months in the Beechwood Nursing Home in Elma, and passed away in Aberdeen where they had been sent to the St. Joseph Hospital. Pete on January 1, 1965 and Ruby, November 21. They lay at rest in the Masonic Cemetery just west of Elma.

Ruby kept in close touch with her kids and their families. In the early 1950's her arthritis got so bad that it took her all day to write. By then the telephone was available but her poor hearing limited her communications that way. Still she always new how many grandkids and greatgrandkids she had and I'm told all their birthdays.

In her letters she wrote:

November 15, 1942

> Ernie was home on furlough . . . "the family was home complete last Sunday, 33 of us, that was the first time in about 11 years and it is hard telling when it will happen again."

October 29, 1950

> ". . . we have 23 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren."

December 18, 1951

" . . . we have 4 new babies since last March, Anna and Lester each a boy, that makes 25 grandchildren and . . . 7 great grandchildren . . . there are 53 in the family now."

In 1965 when Ruby died she left behind, 29 grandchildren and 51 great grandchildren and her family, if everyones spouse is included stood at about 120. Twenty years later . . . does anyone want to venture a guess?



Ruby & Pete Nordwell's wedding portrait. Goldendale, 1904



Pete & Ruby at their 60th wedding anniversary held at their Elma home. 1964



Ruby



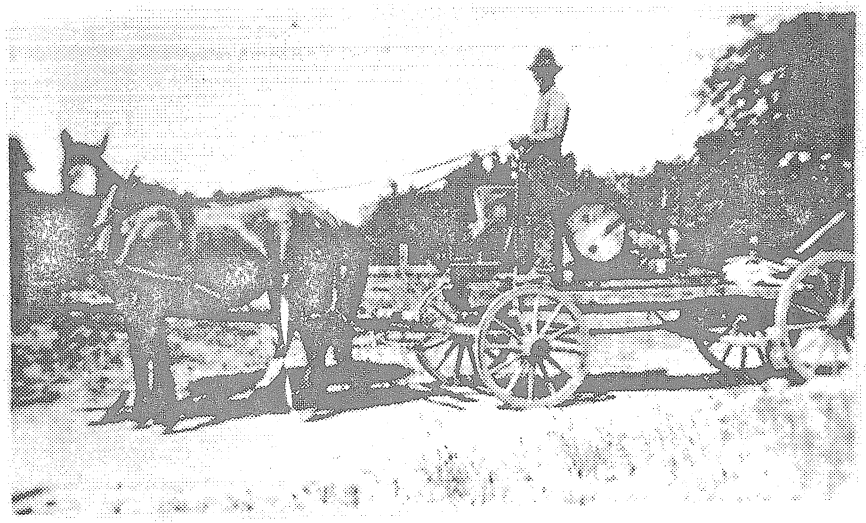
Pete Nordwell ready for the next job



Ruby, Helen on horse, Anna



Pete & Ruby at 1964 family picnic at Mary Rodericks



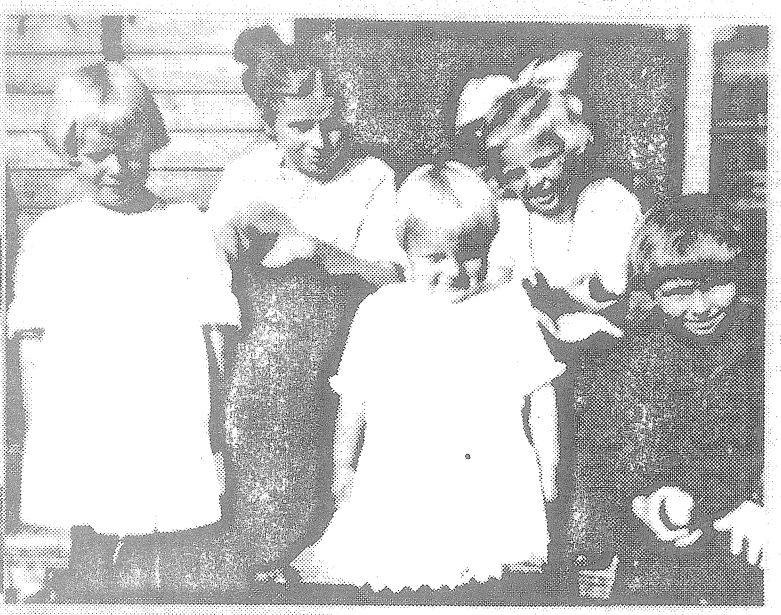
Pete and his drag saw wagon



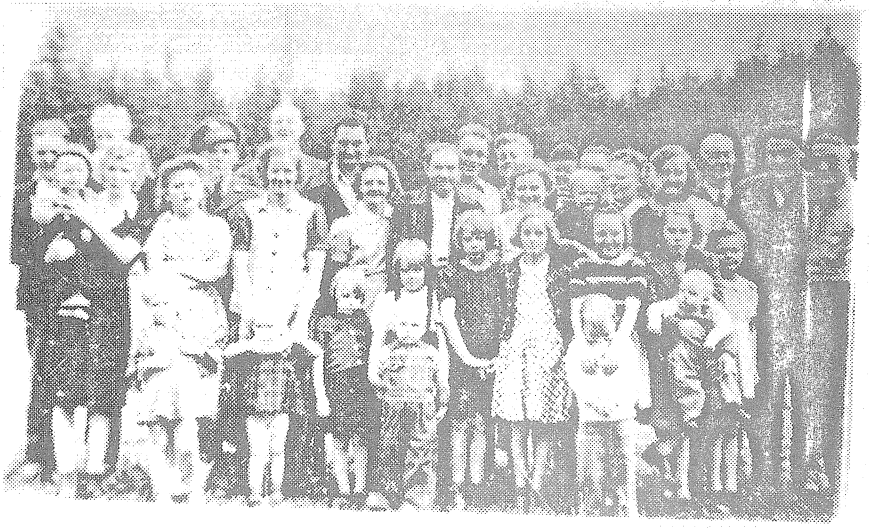
The family: Pete, Ruby, Anna, Helen, Hazel (insert), Lester, Mary, Ernie, Edith



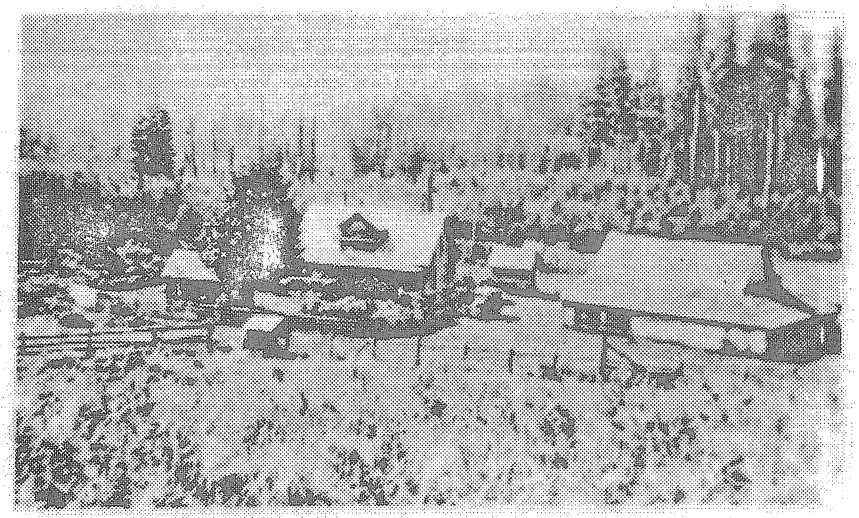
Back: Lester, Hazel, Ruby, Pete, Ernie.
Front: Anna, Mary, Edith, Helen



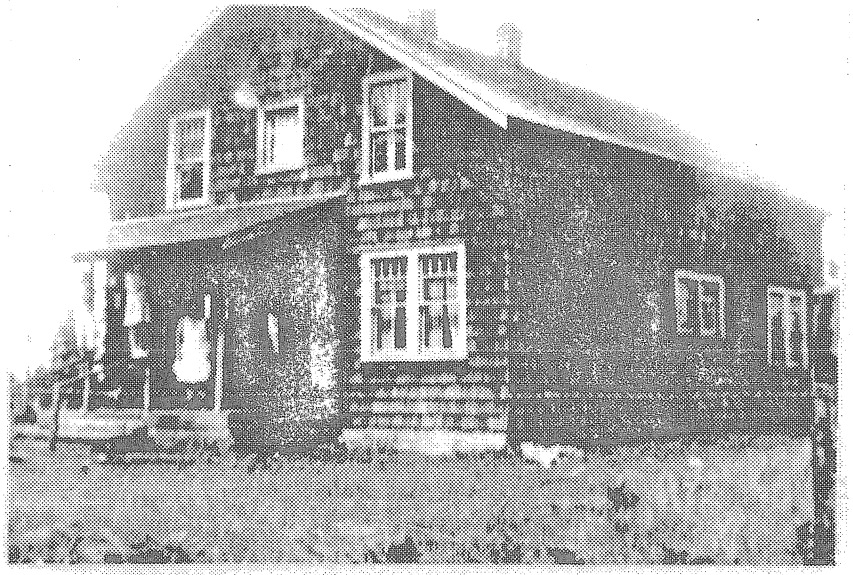
The young Nordwells . . . Mary (4), Anna (10), Edith (2), Helen (8), Lester (6), . . . 1921



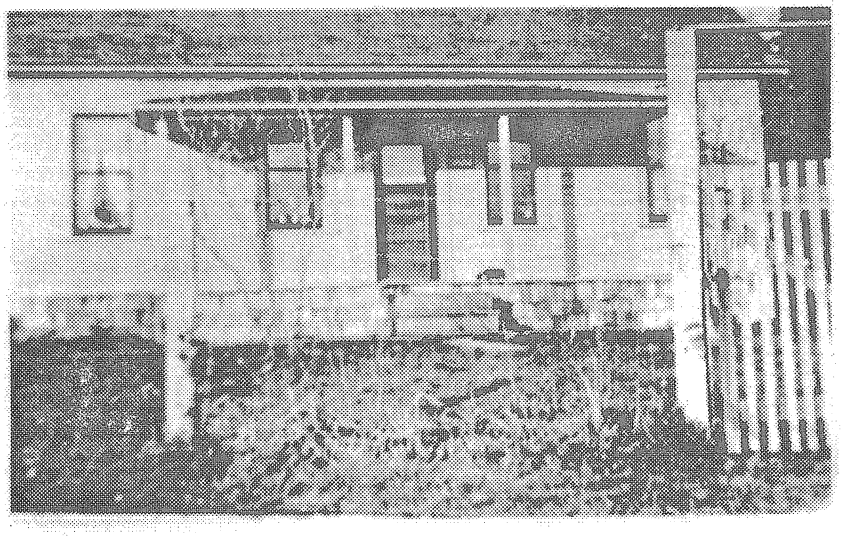
Pete & Ruby's family . . all 33 members at Matlock during Ernie's leave on November 15, 1942. The first time in 11 years for everyone to be together.



The first Matlock home



The second



The third

Note: This is the rejection notice for the Goldendale homestead application mentioned on page 121.

4—485.

EMM

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,

01214

VANCOUVER, Washington.
JUN 27 1910

Peter J. Nordwell,

Goldendale, Washington.

In reference to your homestead entry No. 13210, for Lot 4, and SE¼ SW¼ Sec. 30, T. 5, N. R. 16, E. you are advised that under date of February 25, 1910 the Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office required that you file evidence of citizenship, as shown by the inclosed copy of his decision.

Sixty days from notice are allowed within which to comply with the requirements of the Commissioner, or to appeal from his decision to the Secretary of the Interior; and upon your failure to take action within the time specified the case will be reported for appropriate action.

A copy of the decision is inclosed.

Very respectfully,

Registered.

14736

, Register.

6—574

143

, Receiver.

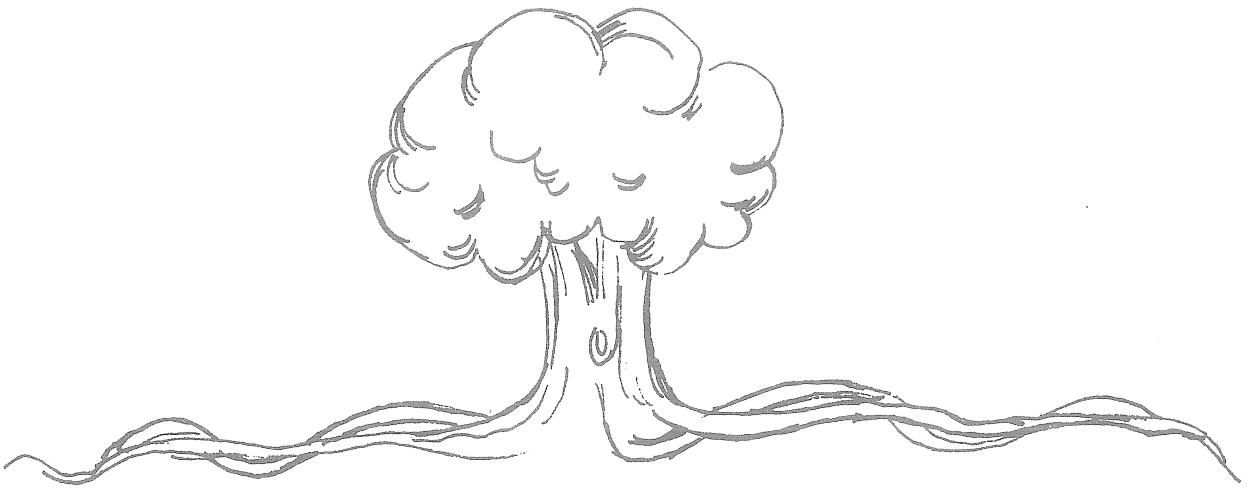
NOTES

PART III THE KIDS OF PETE & RUBY NORDWELL



Anna, Ernie, Helen, Mary, Edith, Hazel, "Pete" in Glenn Roderick's dune buggy. Family picnic Bucoda, Washington

NOTES



13

HAZEL NORDWELL MASON/BALIS
The Hazel & David Ray Mason and family--David Hubert, Gladys, Charles, Buelah; Hazel & Clyde Balis

Nordwall, Hazel, born 24 July 1905 in Klickitat County. Mo - Ruby R. Schouler, age 23, child #1, b. Ia. Fa - Peter John Nordwall, age 30, occ. farmer, b. Swe. By F. H. Collins, M.D. page 45, #1

Hazel Agnes was the first of Pete and Ruby's nine children. She was born in 1905, most likely on their farm outside of Goldendale, Washington. At age five Hazel, her brothers John and William and her parents moved to western Washington. Briefly to Chehalis where her grandfather had recently moved and then to Montesano. Hazel had mentioned to her son Hugh that the family prospered while in Montesano. For Hazel that meant ready made clothes on a regular basis and piano lessons. Of course, the other children, Anna, Helen and Lester were but tykes and not old enough to appreciate such luxuries.

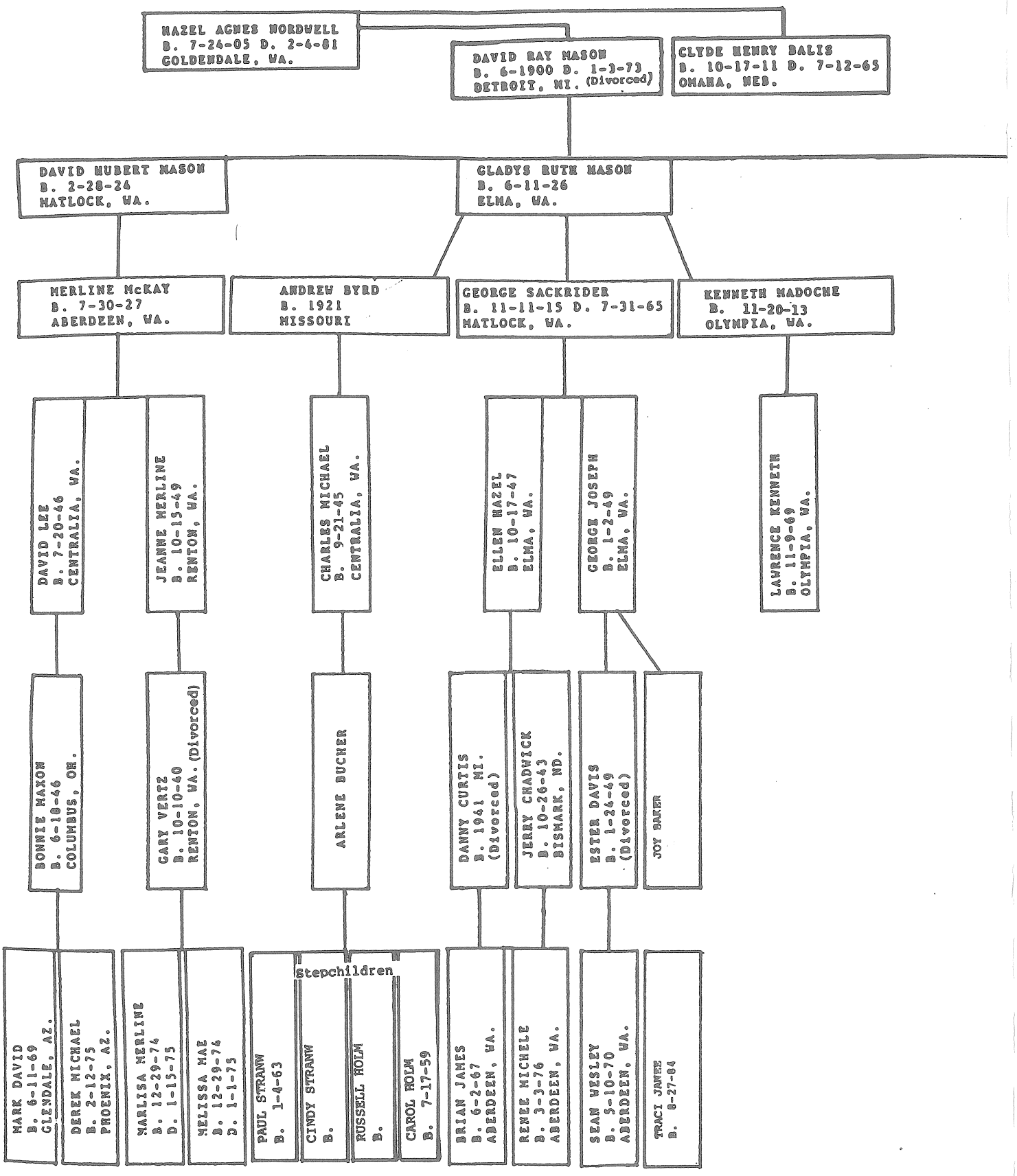
With the death of John and William, Hazel became the older sister to the six that arrived later. She was seven years older than Anna, the next oldest. The luxuries were the advantages of being the oldest at that time, but there was a major disadvantage. The age difference meant helping her mother with the house work and baby raising chores.

Hazel completed the first seven grades in Montesano and completed the eighth, ninth and tenth grade while the family was alfalfa farming near Orland, California. In 1921 the family returned to Washington, settling near Matlock.

Hazel was a whiz at school like the other Nordwell kids but didn't graduate . . . mainly because there was no high school to go to in the Matlock area. After getting out of school she worked around home and then took a baby sitting job with the Gleasons near Brady. Mrs. Gleason taught school so Hazel lived there during the week and took care of the two young children.

It was about this time that she met Ray Mason and a year later, on November 20, 1922, at age 17, Hazel married Ray. They were married in Grays Harbor with Uncle Carl Nordwell and Lola Olsen as witnesses.

Ray was working in the woods at the time. He moved around from log camp to log camp. His dad, Charles, was born in England in 1865. Charles and his brothers, Dave, Dick and Sam lived on the streets of London and when they were


HAZEL AGNES NORDWELL
B. 7-24-05 D. 2-6-81
GOLDENDALE, WA.
DAVID RAY MASON
B. 6-1900 D. 1-3-73
DETROIT, MI. (Divorced)
CLYDE HENRY BALIS
B. 10-17-11 D. 7-12-65
OMAHA, NEB.
DAVID HUBERT MASON
B. 2-28-24
MATLOCK, WA.
GLADYS RUTH MASON
B. 6-11-26
ELMA, WA.
MERLINE McKAY
B. 7-30-27
ABERDEEN, WA.
ANDREW BYRD
B. 1921
MISSOURI
GEORGE SACKRIDER
B. 11-11-15 D. 7-31-65
MATLOCK, WA.
KENNETH MADOCHE
B. 11-20-13
OLYMPIA, WA.
DAVID LEE
B. 7-20-46
CENTRALIA, WA.
JEANNE MERLINE
B. 10-15-49
RENTON, WA.
CHARLES MICHAEL
B. 9-21-45
CENTRALIA, WA.
ELLEN HAZEL
B. 10-17-47
ELMA, WA.
GEORGE JOSEPH
B. 1-2-49
ELMA, WA.
LAWRENCE KENNETH
B. 11-9-69
OLYMPIA, WA.
BONNIE MAXON
B. 6-10-46
COLUMBUS, OH.
GARY VERTZ
B. 10-10-40
RENTON, WA. (Divorced)
ARLENE BUCHER
DANNY CURTIS
B. 1941 MI.
(Divorced)
JERRY CHADWICK
B. 10-26-43
BISMARK, ND.
ESTER DAVIS
B. 1-24-49
(Divorced)
JOY BAKER
MARK DAVID
B. 6-11-69
GLENDALE, AZ.
DEREK MICHAEL
B. 2-12-75
PHOENIX, AZ.
MARLISA MERLINE
B. 12-29-74
D. 1-13-75
MELISSA MAE
B. 12-29-74
D. 1-1-75
stepchildren
PAUL STRANW
B. 1-4-63
CINDY STRANW
B.
RUSSELL HOLM
B.
CAROL HOLM
B. 7-17-59
BRIAN JAMES
B. 6-2-67
ABERDEEN, WA.
RENEE MICHELE
B. 3-3-76
ABERDEEN, WA.
SEAN WESLEY
B. 5-10-70
ABERDEEN, WA.
TRACI JANEE
B. 8-27-84

CHARLES PETER MASON
B. 1-5-28
SHELTON, WA.
BUELAH ELIZABETH MASON
B. 7-31-32
SHELTON, WA.
NOREEN BROWN
B. 12-13-32
(Divorced)
MARYANNE MITZKE
B. 6-18-40
GRAFTON, ND.
HERBERT H. TERRY
B. 10-24-28
(Divorced)
ROBERT J. GROOM
B. 1-7-19
(Divorced)
ALETHA MARIE
B. 11-9-51
BOISE, ID.
TAMRA KAY
B. 7-16-53
CENTRALIA, WA.
WAYNE ALLEN
B. 8-11-55
CENTRALIA, WA.
MARLA ANN
B. 1-12-59
ABERDEEN, WA.
WILLIAM PAUL
B. 11-18-71
ABERDEEN, WA.
JIMMY ALLEN
B. 9-30-51
PORTLAND, OR.
PATRICA ANN
B. 11-27-52
PORTLAND, OR.
TIMOTHY RAY
B. 11-24-54
PORTLAND, OR.
JOHN ANTHONY
B. 1-28-56
N. CAROLINA
SUSAN MARIE
B. 3-12-57
PORTLAND, OR.
DENNIS CLAYTON
B. 6-58 D. 10-30-58
VANCOUVER, WA.
RONALD KNOPP
B. 6-17-49
SEATTLE, WA
ELSIE VAN DEN BOSCH
B. 6-21-55
LOCKPORT, NY
DEBRA G. BLISS
B. 12-3-52
EUGENE, OR.
TIMOTHY LOVELL
B. 12-29-48
(Divorced)
MARTIN O'KEEFE
M. 6-1982
BRENDA S. HOLLINGSWORTH
B. 5-16-47
FLORENCE, AZ.
STEWART DAVID HAINEY
B. 1-26-39
(Divorced)
PETER MERRITT
M. 7-1982
BRIAN HOWARD
B. 9-27-78
KLAMATH FALLS, OR
MICHELLE MARIE
B. 4-19-81
KLAMATH FALLS, OR.
ELIZABETH LaVONNE
B. 5-13-85 PORTLAND, OR
CHRISTOPHER WAYNE
B. 8-18-82
RENTON, WA
SAMANTH ANN
B. 1-25-85
FEDERAL WAY, WA
MICHELE RENE
B. 3-24-72
FRANKFURT, GER.
CHRISTOPHER ALLEN
B. 11-11-74
KILLEEN, TX.
NICHOLAS JOHN
B. 12-18-77
KILLEEN, TX.
TINA LYNN
B. 6-7-69
PORTLAND, OR.
TIMMIE FRANCIS
B. 10-11-71
PORTLAND, OR.
MARTIN*
MARK*
TERRY*
LEE*
SUSANN*
DARRELL JAMES
B. 11-10-73
PORTLAND, OR.
BRANDI MARIE
B. 10-2-75
PORTLAND, OR.
Stepchild

*Stepchild

10 or so they were said to have been shanghaied onto a boat and taken to Canada. There they would be put to work later but first they were put in a Catholic boarding school until they were old enough to work, which was about age 14. Charles snuck off to Michigan, however and went to work in the woods and sawmills as a laborer. Work days were 18 hours; 6 days a week and wages just enough to survive on. Dave went to work as a cook on a ship working in the Great Lakes. Dave and Charles lost track of their brothers Sam and Dick.

On July 16, 1888, at age 23, Charles married fifteen year old Martha Lavina Clearwater in the town of Alcoua, Michigan. Martha was the daughter of William and Almina Clearwater, of Polish descent. Almina's father was a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War. In June, 1900 Ray Mason was born in Detroit. Somewhere along the way Charles and Dave got together and arrived in Washington state on April 14, 1907.

For the most part Dave and Charles worked the log camps, Charles in the woods and Dave stayed with cooking. Each operated a forty acre farm four miles south of Shelton near Lake Isabella. Charles died in 1940 or 1941 when he was hit by a hit and run driver not far from his farm. When David died he deeded his property over to Hazel.

All of Pete and Ruby's kids would have to be considered poor, at least through the 1940's. They had a lot, but it wasn't money nor material goods. When Hazel and Ray married, Hazel moved from the poor into poverty.

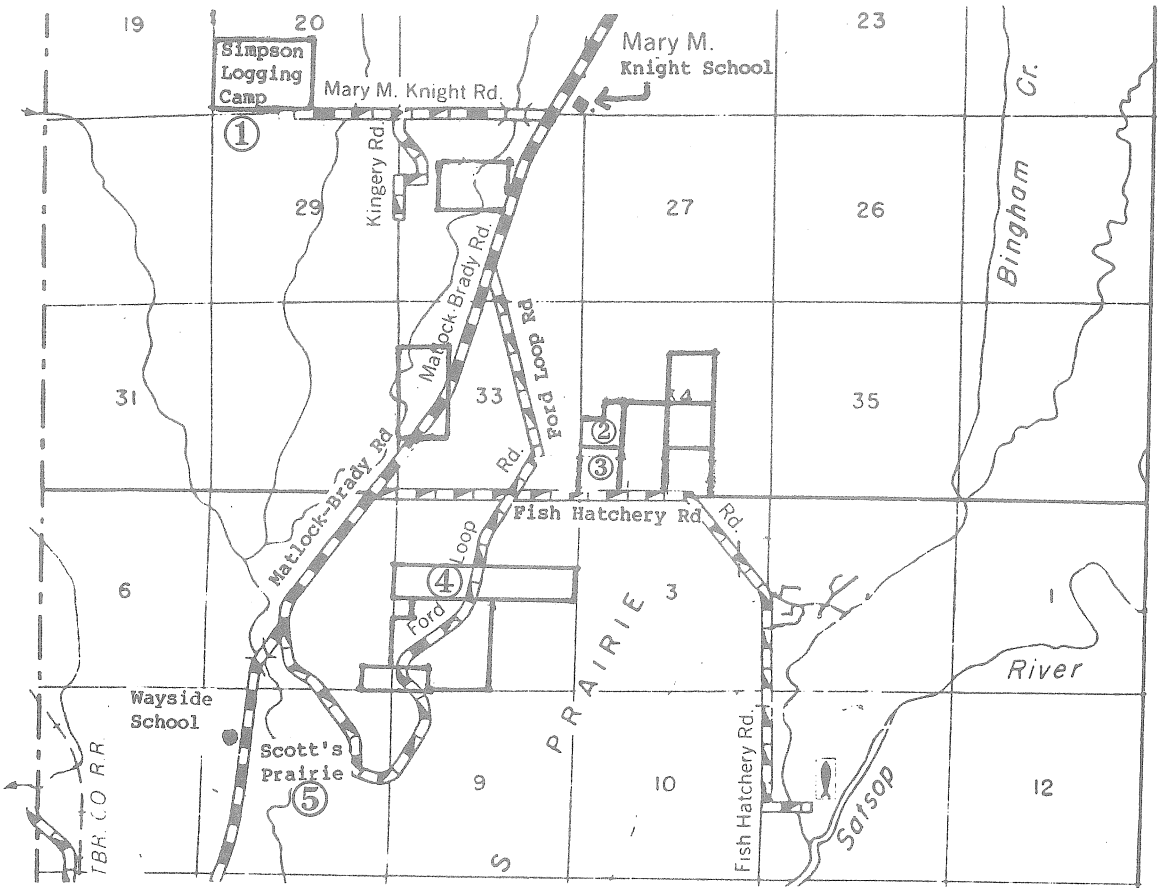
At first Hazel and Ray lived about a half mile from Peter and Ruby. They rented a house on the Sam Scott place directly across the road from the Scott's house. The house was stark but the times were good. They had family and friends over often during the summer for picnics, baseball games and socializing. On February 28, 1924, Hugh became their first child. His birth was truly a family affair. Hazel went to her mothers for the delivery and her mother-in-law, who was a midwife, made the delivery. Hugh reportedly entered to world at 11:45 p.m. . . . 15 minutes later and he would have been a February 29, baby.

Ray continued to work the log camps around Shelton and Matlock. Getting a job and getting laid off was all a part of the routine at the camp. But Ray seemed to take a lot longer than most to find the next job. This life style meant moving around a lot. When Gladys was born on June 11, 1926 they were living at Simpsons Camp 2 near the Mary M. Knight School. When Charles was born on January 5, 1928 they were living somewhere around Matlock but he was born in Shelton. Hazel went to the Shelton Hospital for delivery but the hospital was under major repair and the maternity ward was a tent next to the hospital.

The depression wasn't that bad on Hazel and her family . . . they couldn't get much poorer. When it arrived the five of them were already living in a large three room canvas tent. They moved in September about the time Hugh started the first grade at Mary M. Knight. The tent sat in the woods on 40 acres on the hill, about a mile north of Pete and Ruby's, next to

MATLOCK, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Hazel and Ray Mason** . . . Simpson Logging Camp where they lived when Gladys was born in 1926.

② **Hazel and Ray Mason?** The 1935 Metsker map shows this 30 acres belonged to D R. Mason.

③ **Hazel and Ray Mason.** Thought to be the site of the tent home they lived in from 1930-1931; 18 months.

④ **Hazel and Ray Mason.** The Quick place they rented from 1931 and until the house burned down in 1933. From here they moved to Shelton.

⑤ **Hazel and Ray Mason** . . . Scott's place where they lived when Hugh was born in 1924.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Matlock map in Chapter 12.

Ernie's acreage. They lived there for a year and a half . . . through two winters. As far as anybody knows they were squatters on the property, living there without permission nor paying rent. Life in the tent wasn't much different than in the houses they had been living. Each place had the essentials, a stove and bedding. But the tent was harder to keep heated, the walls flapped in the wind and leaked more often.

During these lean times they picked ferns getting 1/2 cent to 1 cent a bunch. They also peeled bark with the younger Nordwell kids getting about a cent a pound. Their Uncle "Pete" really loved to visit them in the tent. It was a big day the kids could get permission to ride the work horses up to Hazels and spend the day. At most they'd be able to go up there once a week and would ride double and at other times take turns on the horses.

In 1931 they moved to a house on the old Quick place next to Pete and Rubys. During the next few years the family experienced a variety of accidents that had lifetime impacts. While living next to his Grandpa Pete (Nordwell), Hugh spent a lot of time helping on the farm. One day in 1929 Hugh, Hazel and Ray were grinding dried cascara bark. Hugh was turning the crank and Hazel was feeding the machine when it jammed. Hazel reached in to unclog it when the gears turned accidentally. Her middle finger on the left hand was mangled. The finger was set straight and appeared to be doing fine. Then one day she bent it forward to kind of test it out. It never came back. Never! She adjusted to that pretty well. It only slowed the speed, but didn't stop her from doing her embroidery, crochet, and making the kids clothes and whatever.

On Lincolns birthday in 1931, Hugh was age 7 and his 8 year old Uncle Ernie were going hunting with their homemade bow and arrows. Ray dulled the arrows for them and sent them on the hunt. A few minutes later one of Ernie's arrows had hit Hugh in the right eye. He remains legally blind in that eye today. An operation to correct the damage in 1965 failed to do any good.

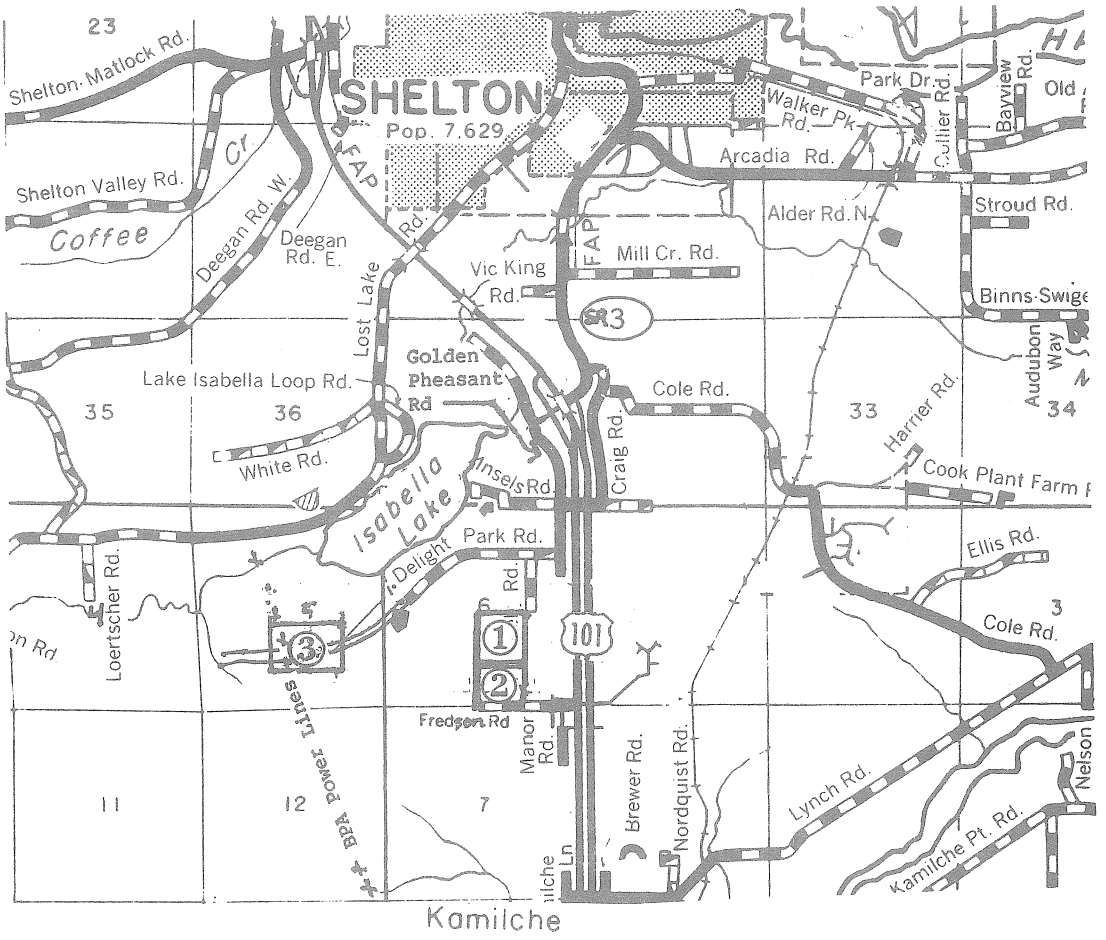
Later that year Hugh, Ernie, Edith and Gladys were playing cowboys and indians out by the road. Gladys had a stick and in the scurrying around she fell and the stick poked her in the left eye. The eye was treated and patched but soon became infected. The eye was taken out for fear that the other eye would also get infected.

A bright spot during this stretch was July 31, 1932, the day Buelah was born. But within a year it was back to calamaties . . . a chimney fire took hold and soon raged out of control. Their house, furniture, clothes and personal belongings were all turned to ash.

They moved. This time to the Mason's farm near Shelton. Lind Nordwell Burns, Ernie's daughter lived on the Mason property for six years before moving to their current home about a mile away. While there, Hazel and the family went on welfare. Only the very poorest people could qualify during the depression. Along with the check, they had a goat and a few chickens to help get them by. That Christmas Hazel decided she'd have dinner at her house.

SHELTON, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



(1) Home of Ray's parents, **Charles and Martha Mason**; 40 acres, settled in 1907. Hazel and Ray lived here for a time during the 1930's as well as several places in Shelton.

(2) Ray's Uncle **David Mason's** 40 acre farm. This property was deeded to Hazel Nordwell Mason upon David's death.

(3) Current 47 acre home of Ernie Nordwell's daughter **Linda and Rick Burns.** Prior to moving here they lived on the Mason homesteads for 6 years. The current address is 1431 W. Delight . . . about ½ mile after the pavement ends and just before the BPA powerlines.

Directions: Located off Highway 101 between Shelton and Olympia. From Olympia it is about 20 miles. Take the first Shelton exit (Shelton/Bremerton) and go left back under the freeway. Follow Golden Pheasant Rd. about a mile and turn right onto Delight Park Rd. and Lake Isabella and the BPA substation. Just 2/10 of a mile on Delight turn left onto Kelly Rd. It was narrow, paved and unsigned when I drove it. The property starts at the end of the pavement, about 2/10 of a mile down Kelly.

Her parents and her younger brothers and sisters joined in the celebration along with the Masons. Everything was on the rickety table and it was time to eat. A couple of minutes later the table leg broke and the food crashed to the floor.

In 1934 Ray joined the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp), one of President Franklin Roosevelt's job creating efforts during the depression. So it was off welfare and on to Belfair in Jefferson County where Ray was to be assistant camp cook. After a year there Ray was promoted to head cook but with that came another move. This time the family went to Wintrop in Okanogan County. There they were provided a house, for a small rent. Eastern Washington was fun for the kids, swimming was of course a favorite pastime in the hot climate. One afternoon when all the kids were swimming, Gladys made one of her spectacular dives. When she came up a friend noticed her glass eye had disappeared. The frantic kids made a frantic search, seemingly to no avail. Then they realized that it hadn't fallen out but had simply turned in the socket.

After two years in the CCC the family moved, first to the Mason's place near Shelton and then to a house on Euclid Street in Centralia. Six months later they moved to 914 South Silver Street. During the time Ray and also Hugh worked for the Simpson Brothers Logging railroad section crew.

By the 1930's Hazels teeth were in bad shape and getting worse. She couldn't afford to get the new teeth she needed, so her dad stepped in. He gave her a calf with the idea that she'd sell it and get herself some dentures.

When war broke out in 1941 Ray joined the Navy and became a cook for the See Bees. The See Bees were an advance construction group that built air fields, docks and anything else that was needed. Ray's group bounced around the Pacific, hitting on New Caladonia, New Guinea and several other islands.

Back in Centralia the kids were growing up fast. Hugh was out of school and had joined the Army Air Force. Because of his eye he was stationed stateside. Charles had up to three paper routes and Buelah was approaching 10 year of age. Hazel went out and got a job at the Woolworth store which sat at 209 N. Tower Avenue. For most of the war she worked in Woolworth's hardware department until they closed. She then worked for the Ben Franklin store which was located near the corner of Tower Avenue and Pine Street.

That left Gladys, who was about 16 to do the cooking, cleaning and most of the other chores at home. One night Gladys proceeded to tell Hazel how unfair she thought the chore assignments were. On top of this Gladys said she wasn't doing them anymore. Hazels response was silent but effective. Gladys, who was by the sink, suddenly found herself on the other side of kitchen. Hazel had spoken.

A couple of years later Hazel showed other parts of her personality; determination and cunning. Hugh had been dating a neighbor Merline McKay and gave her a ring before he left for the service. In 1945 when Hugh came home

on furlough the ring was in his pocket . . . Merline had sent it back. Hazel set up a 5:30 p.m. supper for Wednesday and insisted everybody be there . . . particularly Hugh. Unbeknownst to the other, both Hugh and Merline were invited. The meal was quiet, at least Hugh and Merline never spoke to each other. Finally, Charles says "I'll walk Merline home." Hazel reacts, "No Hugh will." It worked, on Saturday they were married!

In the meantime Ray was having a tough time. His cook shack was bombed by the Japanese while he was on New Caladonia. Running for cover he injured himself getting into the foxhole. He escaped serious injury, but began to deteriorate mentally . . . so he was sent to a hospital for treatment. Then the hospital was bombed. Again he escaped injury but the fear and the anguish of hearing his bedridden friends, set him back further. This time Ray was set to a hospital in San Diego. On July 7, 1944 he returned to civilian life but never fully recovered. Hugh and only a few others were ever able to have reasonable conversation with him again. Ruby in a January 27, 1947 letter to Olive Nordwell wrote "Ray Mason is still awful nervous, I doubt if he will ever be very well." Hazel and Ray never really got back together after the war. They separated but didn't become officially divorced until 1953. Ray passed away at age 72, in 1972. He spent most of his time after the war in Shelton. He worked in a plywood mill for a while and did yard work and odd jobs.

By the end of the war Gladys was married and starting a family. Buelah was now doing most of the household chores and Charles was in Centralia High leaning toward college and a music career. Hazel was pretty much on her own so she took a job as a fry cook at Art and Bill's which was located at the corner of Tower and Main. Their specialty, a juicy half pound hamburger. That's where the beef was. Hazel started seeing Clyde Balis in 1945. Clyde was born in Nebraska and was living in Centralia and driving truck for Peachy Peters at the time. In 1947 Hazel, Clyde and Buelah moved to Aberdeen where Clyde drove truck for Pacific Sand and Gravel. About a year later they moved to Portland, Oregon. Clyde had landed a maintenance job with Interstate Freight Lines. He did minor repairs, replaced light bulbs, washed trucks and the like. They lived about a block from the shop at 1829 NW Kearney Street.

Hazel went down to the Woolworth store and got on as a clerk in the hosiery and soft goods department. After several years there she was tired of working and quit.

After a break she wanted to go back to work and became a fry cook again. This time, however it was at a dive on Portland's Front Street skid row. It wasn't long before she decided that wasn't for her.

Some time in 1952 she and Clyde decided to get married . . . but first Hazel had to get divorced. That became final on February 13, 1953. Among other things the divorce papers decreed that, neither Ray nor Hazel could marry another person for at least six months. So it wasn't until August 15, 1953 that Hazel and Clyde were married in Centralia.

Two years later Hazel became quite ill. The frightening diagnosis was cancer of the female organs. She was very sick for longer than anyone wants to remember. She took radium treatments and X-ray treatments. Through all this nothing had to be removed and amazingly she was pronounced cured in 1965.

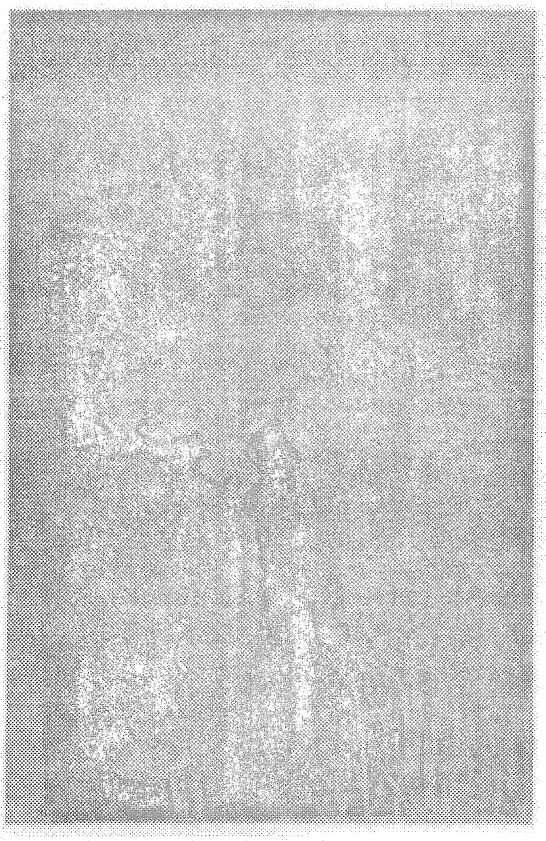
Not long after that they left Portland and Clyde went into construction. They moved up to Cougar, Washington near Mt. St. Helens where construction on the Swift Creek Dam was underway. After the job they moved their trailer over to Rufus, Oregon where Clyde had a job on the John Day Dam. There Clyde did several jobs including driving the water truck which was used to keep dust down. Reportedly he and the man on the other shift had been complaining about drive ability of the truck but nothing was done. Then on the way down an incline on July 12, 1965 Clyde lost control of the truck. The water shifted and disaster was imminent. Clyde unhooked his seat belt to abandon the truck but his foot got tangled in the peddles and the truck rolled over on him.

Hazel who was now 60, moved the trailer to Trailer Village on Harrison Street in Centralia. For income, she had social security and State Industrial Insurance payments from Oregon.

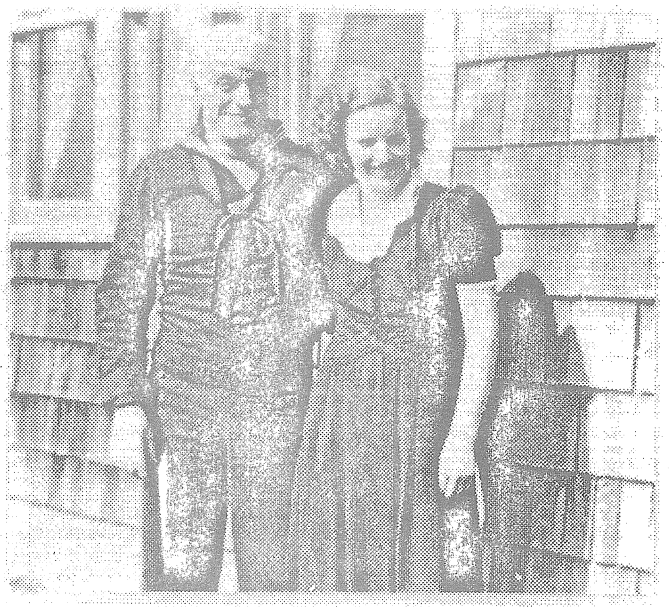
"In retirement" Hazel continued to enjoy her knitting, crocheting and embroidery. She also joined her sisters Helen and Mary at the bingo games which became very popular in the 1960's and 70's. They also headed to Reno when they got the chance. They took their first trip to Nevada on an Eagles Charter bus out of Chehalis around 1970. None of them got rich on that trip; but they did learn their way around so they drove themselves on future trips.

In 1969 Hazel sold her trailer and moved into the Cannon Apartments on the 300 block of North Tower Avenue. After 5 years, February 12, 1974 to be exact, she moved over to the Lewis and Clark Apartments located at Magnolia and Pearl. This time on the third floor. It was recently redecorated and had an elevator. She had been on the second floor at the Cannon but was now starting to have a hard time getting around and negotiating steps. Over the next few years her mobility diminished. Helen, and Hugh and Merline helped Hazel with her shopping, going to bingo, the doctors and where ever.

The doctor didn't really come up with anything significant . . . borderline diabetes and old age. In the fall of 1980 Hugh and Merline built a room on the back of their home on 1009 E Street and Hazel moved into it in October. Four months later she entered the hospital. Exploratory surgery discovered a reoccurrence of the cancer she had in the late 1950's. A second surgery implanted a shunt pump which helped replenish the proteins she was loosing. Twenty-three days after entering Centralia General she passed away at 2:20 a.m. on February 4, 1981. Today she lies in rest next to Clyde in the Stricklin Greenwood Memorial Park at 1822 Van Wormer in Centralia.



Hazel & baby Hugh



Seabee Ray and Hazel



Martha Nordwell, grandaughter Hazel holding son David "Hugh" at Matlock



The Masons: Hugh, Gladys, Buelah, Hazel, Ray, & Charles



Glady Mason with patch & cousin Bonnie Nordwell



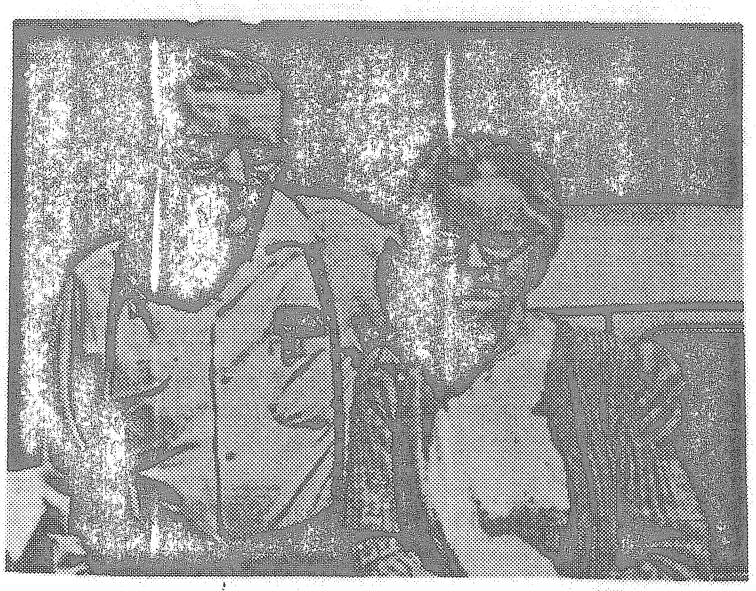
Chuck, Buelah, Gladys, Hugh. Early 1940's



Hazel & Clyde Balis



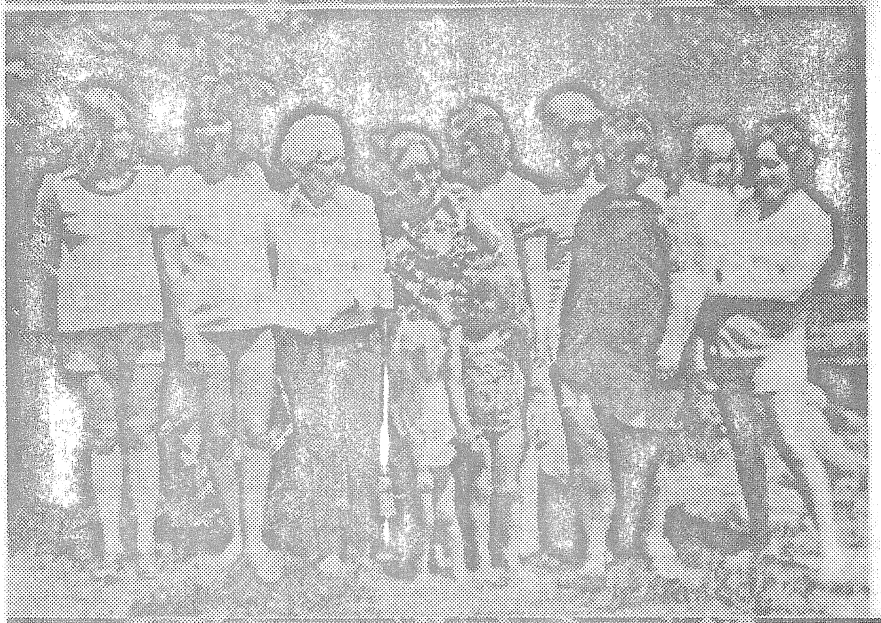
Hazel & Clyde on their wedding day



Hazel Balis with Uncle Oscar Nordwell



Hazel 's family: Hugh & Merline Mason; Hazel, Glady & Ken Madoche, Bob & Buelah Groom; Charles & Maryanne Mason



Hazel's female descendants



Hazel's male descendants

NOTES



14

JOHN NORDWELL

Born 1907, Died 1909 Age 2

WILLIAM NORDWELL

Born 1909, Died 1913 Age 4

John and William were Pete and Ruby's second and third children. Both were born on the Goldendale farm and both fell victim to diphtheria. Like many illnesses that are unheard of today, diphtheria was dreaded well into the 1900's. Diphtheria is an acute contagious infection that affects young children. The initial phases often resembled that of a mild cold, so early diagnosis was elusive. Diagnosis was further complicated because the patient was usually too young to express what was happening. Even if it were diagnosed early, the verdict was often the same . . . just a matter of time. In the 1920's an effective antitoxin and testing had reached all corners of the US and ended the serious threat it brought to young children and the fear it brought parents.

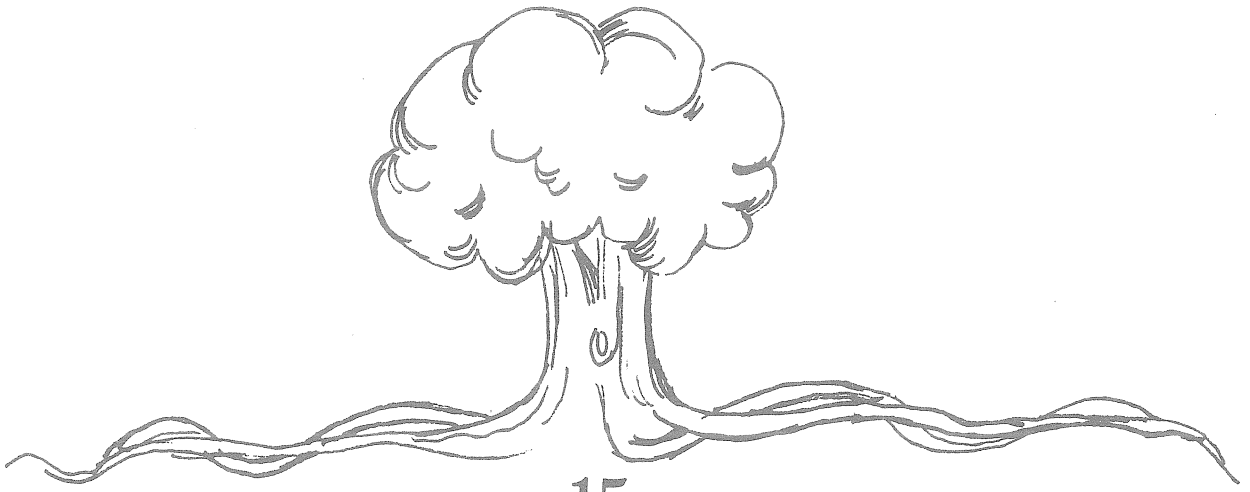
Hazel had mentioned that the loss of the two boys really affected their father. He seemed to be more mellow and personable to his children after their death.



John and Hazel

William →





15

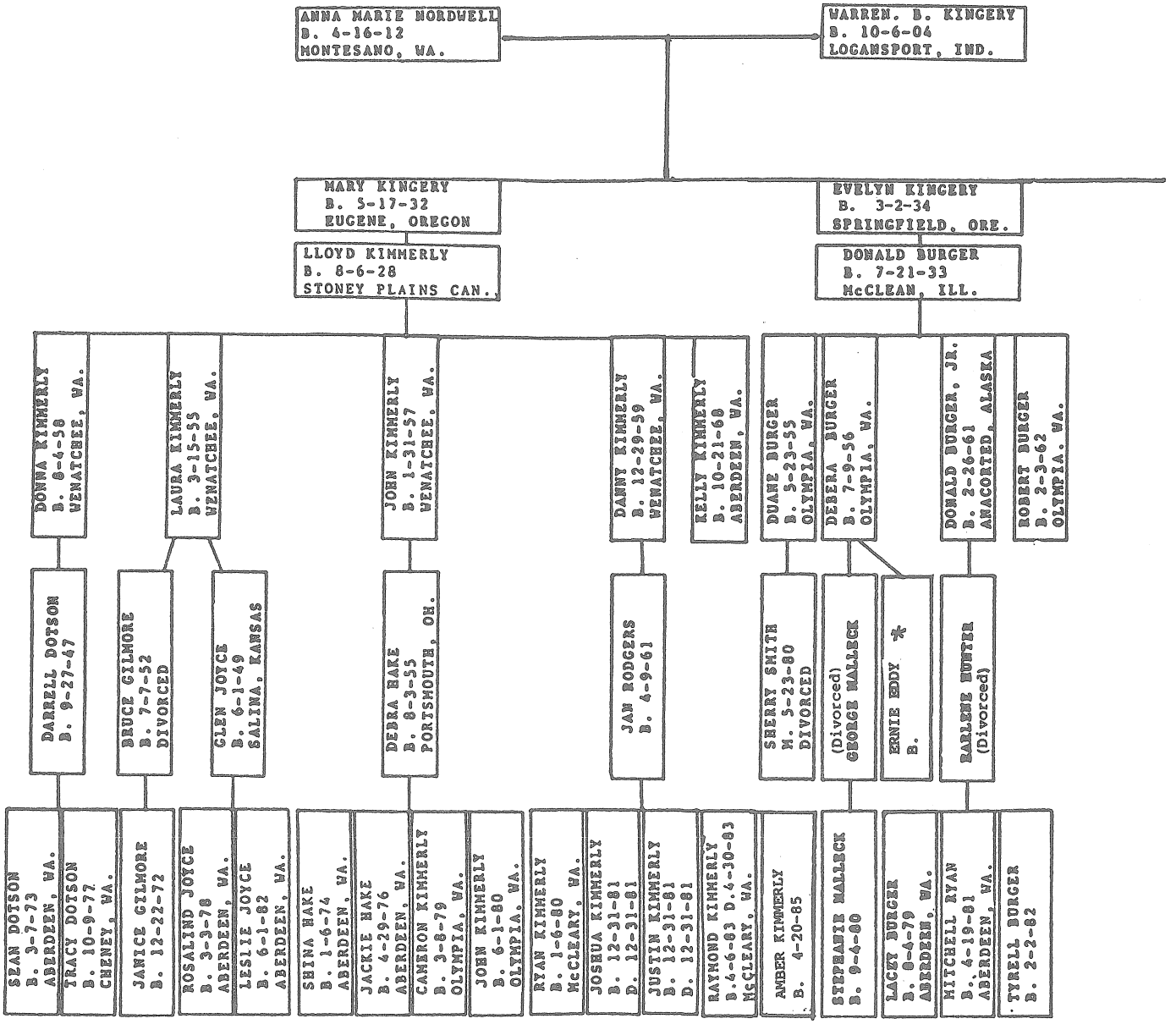
ANNA NORDWELL KINGERY
The Anna & Warren Kingery family--Mary, Evelyn, Ruth, Ester, Paul, Earl, Orlen

Anna Marie Nordwell was the fourth child of Pete and Ruby. She was born April 16, 1912 at their home near Montesano. With the death of John in 1909 and William in 1913 she became the only sibling of Hazel who was eight in 1913.

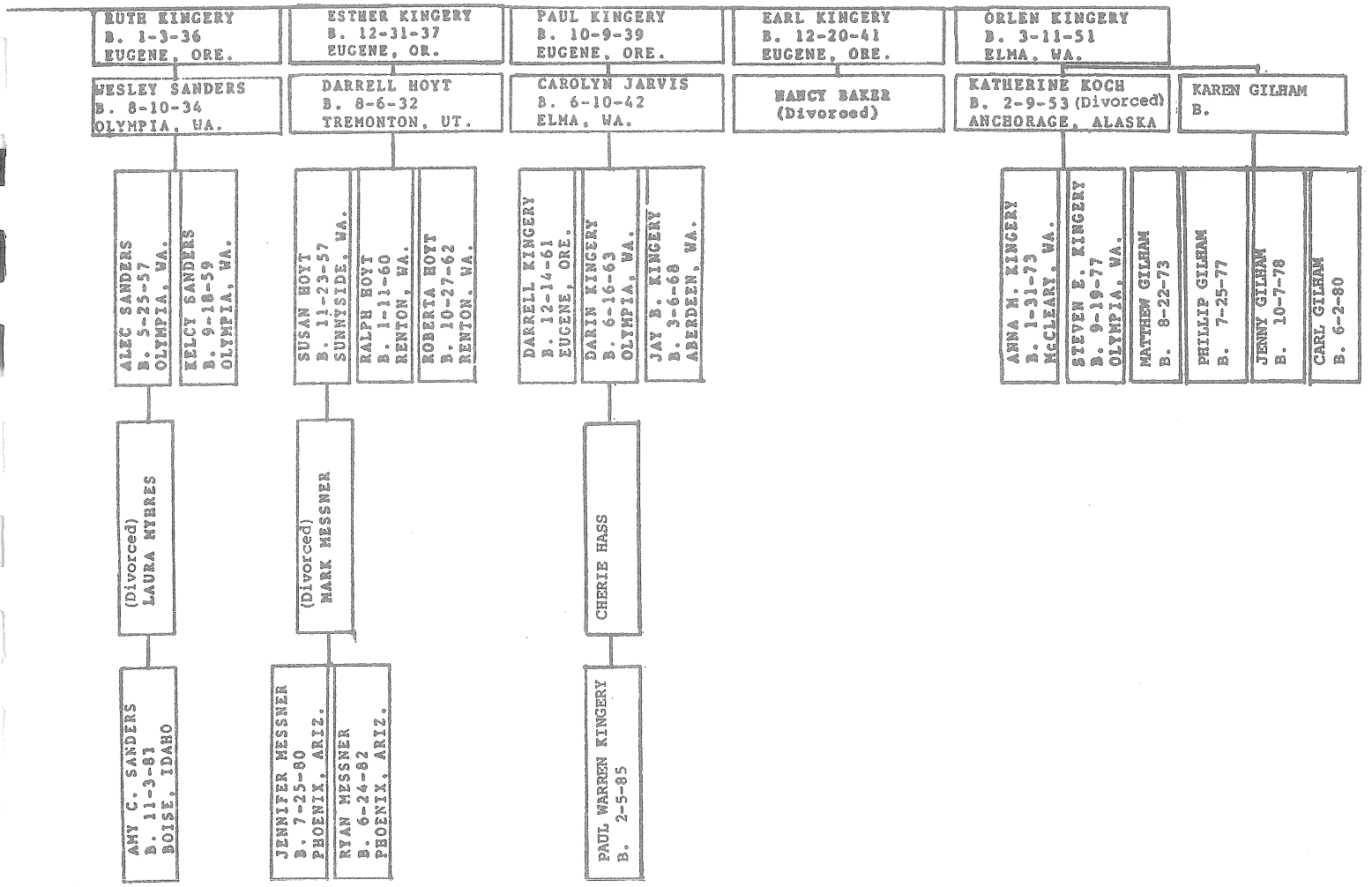
She soon became the family cook. She started high school in 1926, the year the two-room Wayside School consolidated with Mary M. Knight. The school curriculum was basically the three R's; Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, History and English were also important classes as was Penmanship. Anna did well at writing and won a Rice Penmanship Award which she still has. She also sang in the school choir. In May of 1930 Anna and seven other girls became the first ever graduating class at Mary M. Knight. For recreation Anna played girls basketball at the logging camp recreation hall which was about a mile due west the school. The camp also had movies and held dances which were well attended.

During Anna's high school days a young fellow named Warren B. Kingery was working for Larry Rice at the fish hatchery near what is now Schaffer State Park. Warren came to Washington State in October 1928 from Luseland, Saskatchewan. There Warren's father Jay and grandfather David farmed a 480 acre ranch on the prairie about 120 miles west of Saskatoon. The Kingerys were in Indiana prior to going to Canada. David, Warren's grandfather, was in the Union Army during the Civil War. Along with soldiering he was also a shoecobbler. That is he made shoes for the soldiers. After the war he taught school for a while and later went back to being a shoecobbler. When he married Mary Loucinda Fuller they bought an 80 acre farm 8 miles from Logansport, Indiana. David and Mary had five children including Jay. Jay married Fanny Edna Brady, they were farmers most of there lives. They had three offspring Warren (1906), Lyman (1906) and Hiram (1908).

The Kingerys and 12 others Logansport families moved to Luseland in 1908. In Luseland the Kingerys grew grains and raised lots of hogs. The early 1900's was the time when automation was only beginning to appear on the farm. Most travel and work was still done by either horses or oxen. Four to ten oxen teams pulled plows, bunchers, thrasher, combines and what have you. Still there was plenty of work for those that wanted it. Warren got his first job in 1915, at age 11.



*Has a stepson
Eddy "E. J." Jones


RUTH KINGERY
B. 1-3-36
EUGENE, ORE.
ESTHER KINGERY
B. 12-31-37
EUGENE, OR.
PAUL KINGERY
B. 10-9-39
EUGENE, ORE.
EARL KINGERY
B. 12-20-41
EUGENE, ORE.
ORLEN KINGERY
B. 3-11-51
ELMA, WA.
WESLEY SANDERS
B. 8-10-34
OLYMPIA, WA.
DARRELL HOYT
B. 8-6-32
TREMONTON, UT.
CAROLYN JARVIS
B. 6-10-42
ELMA, WA.
NANCY BAKER
(Divorced)
KATHERINE KOCH
B. 2-9-53 (Divorced)
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
KAREN GILHAM
B.
ALEC SANDERS
B. 5-25-57
OLYMPIA, WA.
KELCY SANDERS
B. 9-18-59
OLYMPIA, WA.
SUSAN HOYT
B. 11-23-57
SUNNYSIDE, WA.
RALPH HOYT
B. 1-11-60
RENTON, WA.
ROBERTA HOYT
B. 10-27-62
RENTON, WA.
DARRELL KINGERY
B. 12-14-61
EUGENE, ORE.
DARIN KINGERY
B. 6-16-63
OLYMPIA, WA.
JAY B. KINGERY
B. 3-6-68
ABERDEEN, WA.
ANNA M. KINGERY
B. 1-31-73
McCLEARY, WA.
STEVEN E. KINGERY
B. 9-19-77
OLYMPIA, WA.
MATTHEW GILHAM
B. 8-22-73
PHILLIP GILHAM
B. 7-25-77
JENNY GILHAM
B. 10-7-78
CARL GILHAM
B. 6-2-80
(Divorced)
LAURA MYERES
(Divorced)
MARK MESSNER
CHERIE HASS
AMY C. SANDERS
B. 11-3-81
BOISE, IDAHO
JENNIFER MESSNER
B. 7-25-80
PHOENIX, ARIZ.
RYAN MESSNER
B. 6-24-82
PHOENIX, ARIZ.
PAUL WARREN KINGERY
B. 2-5-85

Luseland was flat with harsh winters. Since there was no electrical wiring, no indoor plumbing and the land was flat, moving any home, barn or even school wasn't much of a problem. They simply put skids underneath and hitched a team to the skids and the move was on.

The harsh winter meant school had to be held in the summer. Warren took in 8 summer sessions at the Heiland school. Elsie Kingery, Warren's aunt, was a teacher at the school.

After 12 years on the prairie David, Mary and their daughter Elsie moved to Attalia near Richland, Washington in 1920.

In 1928 Warren came west and went to work at the fish hatchery. By 1929 he and Anna were dating. They'd go to dances, Grange events and movies at the log camp. Of course their romance was serious and they were married. On Friday, November 3, 1931 Pete and Ruby butchered a beef. On Saturday they were off to deliver half to Larry Rice at the fish hatchery and the other half in Montesano. At the fish hatchery Larry or his wife come out with: "Hear you're getting a new son-in-law today!" Anna had neglected to tell her parents of her plans. That afternoon Anna and Warren were married in Shelton at the courthouse. That evening when they returned home Ruby was crying and Pete was upset at losing his favorite cook.

Anna and Warren moved into the vacated Wayside school just up the road from her folks. The two-room school had a kitchen and quarters where the teachers had lived.

In April 1932 they joined Warren's parents on a 480 acre farm near Eugene, Oregon. Six weeks later on May 17, Mary, their first child was born at the ranch. Jay had traded the Luseland farm for the Oregon ranch in 1932. With the deal came 400 sheep and $10,000 of debts. They sheared the sheep, sold lambs and raised hogs, wheat and oats. The 1930's were rough times and the depression and the $10,000 debt took its toll as farm prices plummeted. They couldn't give their pigs away so they turned them out in the oat fields to cut expenses. Within two years, they lost the place.

Anna and Warren moved to nearby Springfield where Warren took any job he could come up with. He did yard work, worked on farms, anything. One of his jobs was to broadcast seed in fields. He covered 20 to 25 acres a day but these were of course long days. Evelyn was born while they were in Springfield on March 2, 1934.

Warren landed a construction job out of Oakridge about 50 miles SE of Eugene. They lived up there for about two years while Warren worked on the High Willamette Pass, a part of State Highway 58. He worked for three different contractors doing everything from hand labor to driving truck. As one job ended he moved to another contractor, this way he was able to work through the entire project.

When those jobs were over the family moved to Santa Clara, a small

community 4 miles from Eugene. Today its a part of Eugene. There, Warren got into the building trades doing common labor and semi-skilled work. He worked on the Fern Ridge flood control and irrigation dam 16 miles SW of Eugene. He worked as a brickmason while helping install two large boilers in a sawmill and worked on the roof of University of Oregon's McArthur Court.

Anna was finding herself busier all the time. By 1938 she had four small girls to take care of with the addition of Ruth on January 1, 1936 and Esther on December 13, 1937. While renting at Santa Clara, Anna got her first taste of modern conveniences. They had electricity, running water and indoor plumbing. She set aside her old washtub and washboard in favor of a shinning new Montgomery Wards wringer-washer they bought for $78.

After Esther was born they bought a five acre parcel in the nearby Willowgilespie district. Warren started to built a 16' x 20' barn on the place. The first year it had no roof. At the suggestion of the neighbor he added 12 feet to each side and the barn became their 40' x 20' new home. The five acres also became a mini-farm. They had a large garden; raised 200 to 400 baby chicks each year, dressing out half as friers and kept the rest as poullets. Anna did a lot of the work around the farm as well as doing the indoor chores for the young family that grew to six children with the arrival of Paul on October 9, 1939 and Earl on December 12, 1941. Earl was the first of the Kingery kids to be born at a hospital.

The depression was still on as World War II began and construction was really slow in the Eugene area most of 1941. Anna and Warren had actually decided to move back to Matlock about the time Earl was born. When he was three weeks old they packed their few belongings and six kids into their 1934 pickup and Pete Nordwell' s truck. They settled next door to Pete and Ruby on the place the Nordwell's had lost in the depression. Pete and Ruby liked having their children living nearby and to help get Anna closer they loaned them 10 cows. This way they'd have an income from the milk. They'd split the calves from the 10 cows so they could build their own herd.

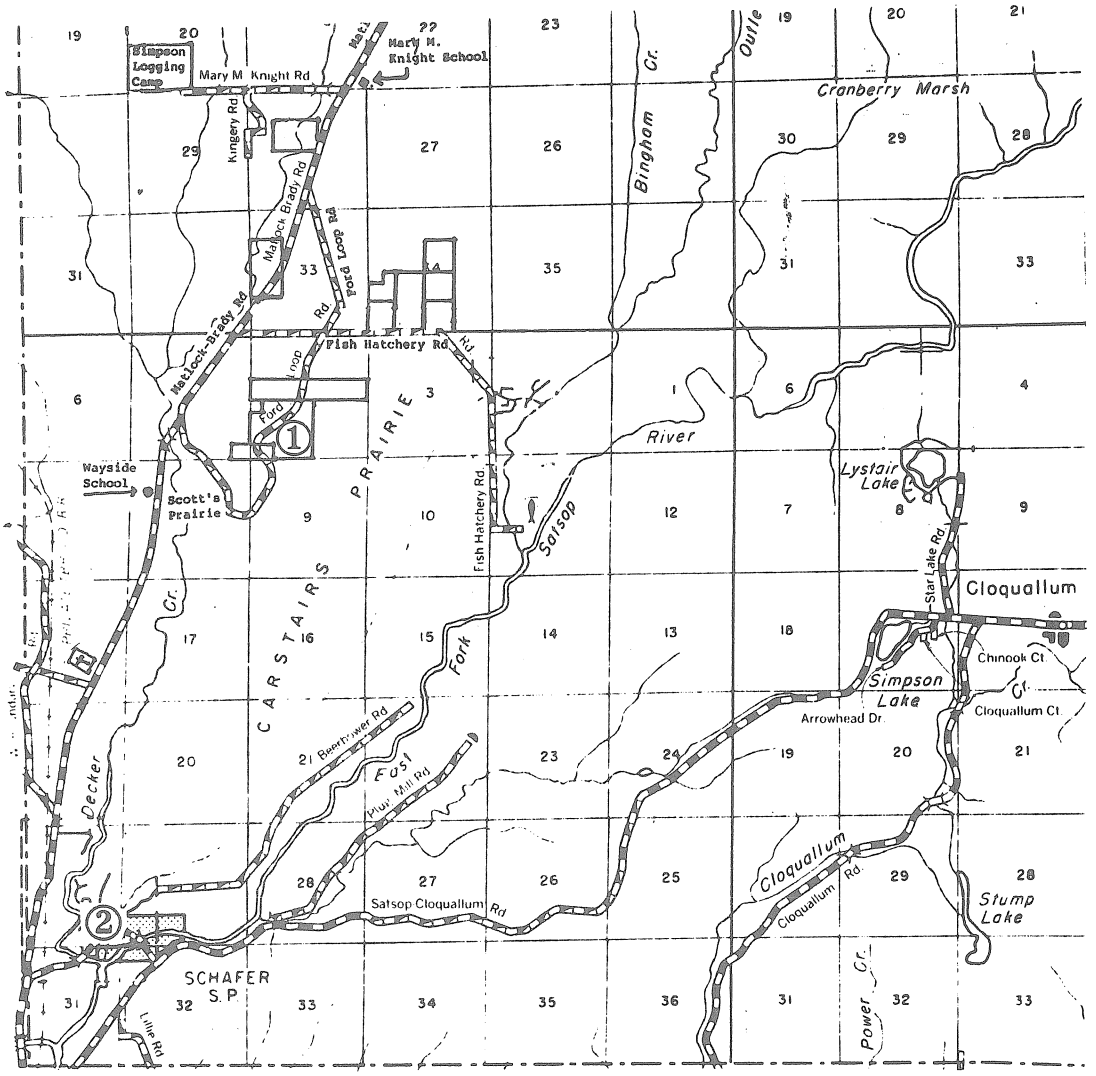
Warren's brothers Lyman and Hiram were also in the Eugene area and came up to Matlock about the same time as Warren and Anna. The three of them and a neighbor Ezie Fuller started a logging and land clearing business. Within two years Lyman and Ezie dropped out of the business. Warren and Hiram continued on for several years. As payment for one of their jobs they were given a small sawmill which they setup on Warrens place.

For Anna, the move to Matlock meant giving up electricity, the wringer washer and the other conveniences. Actually they got electricity in June 1942 just six months after arriving in Matlock. But they didn't get indoor plumbing until 1952 when they hired Bob Kramer to put it in. With this came hot water and the return of the wringer washer. Anna didn't get an automatic washer and dryer however until 1964 when they lived south of Elma.

The Kingery's took on a lot. The logging business more than kept Warren busy, but he found time to be on the school board for 18 years and survive a

MATLOCK, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Peter and Ruby Nordwell** 155 acre farm. This is the original Nordwell Matlock farm. They lived there from 1921 to 1937 when they lost it during the depression. The original house burned down in 1928. They built a new house which became the home of daughter **Anna and Warren Kingery** from 1942 to 1959. The current address Rt. 1, Box 143, Elma, WA. From here the Kingery's moved to Elma. Birthplace of Ernie Nordwell and Orlen Kingery. Warren's brothers each had 80 acre farms on the Mary M. Knight Rd. near the Kingery Rd.

② Fish hatchery where Warren worked when he first came to the area and met **Anna Nordwell**

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Matlock map in Chapter 12.

recall election. Anna certainly had plenty to do with a large family and home. The kids kept the farm going. Evelyn and Ester helped Anna with the indoor chores. Ruth and Mary fed the chickens, slopped the hogs and milked the 3 to 5 cows. When Paul got old enough he took over feeding the chickens and slopping the hogs, and when Mary left, milking the cows. When Earl got old enough he then took over some of the chores.

On March 11, 1951 their seventh and last child, Orlen, was born he was named after Warren's uncle Orlen.

Warren says he took on too much, simply spread too thin. In 1955 things caught up with them, both the log business and farm went under. Beef prices fell to about half what they had been and logging was always a struggling business. Warren got back into heavy construction, driving graders, cats, backhoes or whatever was needed. Near Seattle he helped convert a Nikie missile site to handle Polaris ballistic missiles. He also helped build ammunition igloos (storage) at Fort Lewis and in 1956 worked on the Mudd Bay section of the freeway between Olympia and Aberdeen. By 1957 Warren was working for El Monte lumber store, now Bayview, in Elma. He delivered redi-mix and also worked at the batch plant. In 1959 they traded their farm with Boyd Zepp for a home at the corner of Anderson and Third Street in Elma. Pete and Ruby had moved to Elma in 1956 and by now Warren's parents had also settled in Elma. They had moved from Eugene to Matlock in the late 1940's.

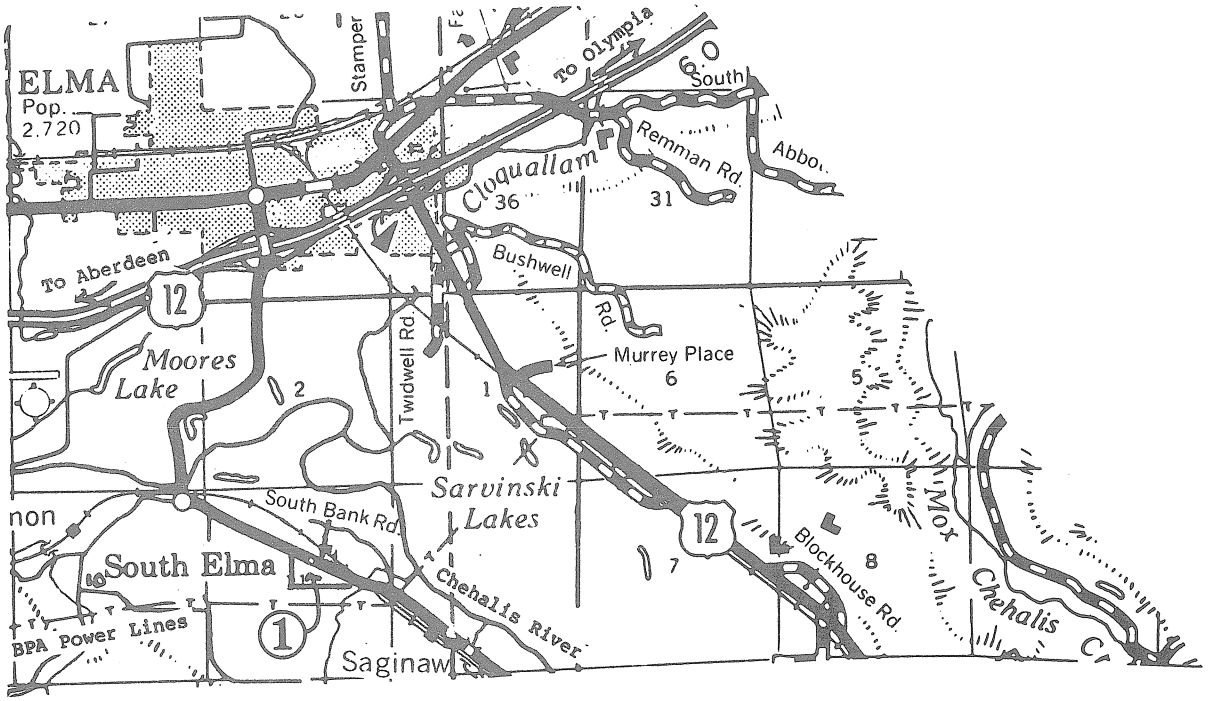
About a year later, in October 1960, Warren and Anna became the unexpected but proud owners of new blue Chevy Biscayne. The Time Service Stations in Washington, Oregon and Idaho gave raffle tickets to their customers for each fill-up, tune-up, grease job, etc. One of their tickets won the grand prize, the car.

In 1963 they moved again. This time to a 15 acre property about three miles south of Elma on what is now 148 South Bank Road. By this time six of there seven children were pretty much on their own. Anna with a full array of modern conveniences and only Warren and Orlen around the house, started to develop her hobbies and participate more in the church. She now had the time to spoil her grandchildren and do her needle work and crocheting in earnest. She is now working on 26 afghans she has committed to do for their 7 kids and 19 grandkids. So far 20 have been completed.

Anna and Warren's life has evolved around family, church and work. Pete always felt that Warren should stay home on Sundays and work around the farm. But Warren stuck to his religious commitment and salvation. They joined the Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Elma in 1953. Once they moved to Elma, Anna became the Secretary for the church board and kept the duties for 20 years. She also began attending the ladies annual spring retreat. In 1961 she became the church custodian receiving $5 per month. Today 24 years later, she and Warren get $100 a month for the work. Warren has been an usher in the church 48 years, retiring as the head usher on December 31, 1984. For years he has been a member of the Board of Trustees, and Financial Secretary as well as "assistant" custodian.

(SOUTH) ELMA, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 Mile



① **Anna and Warren Kingery;** their 15 acre home from 1963 to 1965. . . . the property is about 3/4 mile after crossing the Chehalis River bridge; the current address is 148 South Bank Rd. and included the property between Box 128-148.

For the locaiton of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see South Elma map in Chapter 18.

After a couple of years south of Elma they moved back into town, they bought Warren's folks home at 1423 W. Martin. Jay had passed away in August, 1968 and Fanny in September of 197_?.

By the late 1960's Warren was approaching 65 so in 1968 they bought a six lot parcel. On three lots they built a "retirement" home which included a large work shop in the basement. The houses roof and exterior was contracted and Warren completed the interior work. On the other lots he built a "spec" home which they sold. They sold the property at 1423 W. Martin to their daughter Mary and Llyod Kimmerly. In 1969, at age 65, Warren retired after 11 1/2 years with El Monte/Bayview. He set up shop in his basement and remodeled several homes around town.

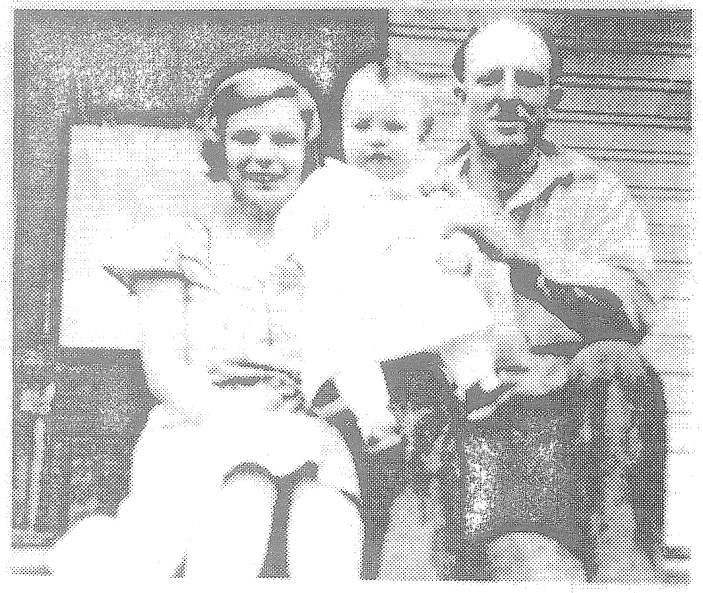
With Social Security, their retirement income was not large. This along with the rules which limit the amount of money you can earn without penalty; that is giving half to the Social Security Administration, they found the retirement home mortgage more than they wanted to handle. Inflation was beginning to run rampant in the early 1970's and that didn't help them financially either. So, in October 1972 they moved for the ninth time since their marriage. This time to their present home at 318 South 5th street in Elma.

After age 72, Social Security rules allows you to earn all you can without a penalty. So in 1976 Warren went back to the Bayview batch plant on a part-time basis. He had all the work he wanted during the construction of the Satsop nuclear power plant in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Now at age 80 he has chose to be retired; at least 95 percent of the time.

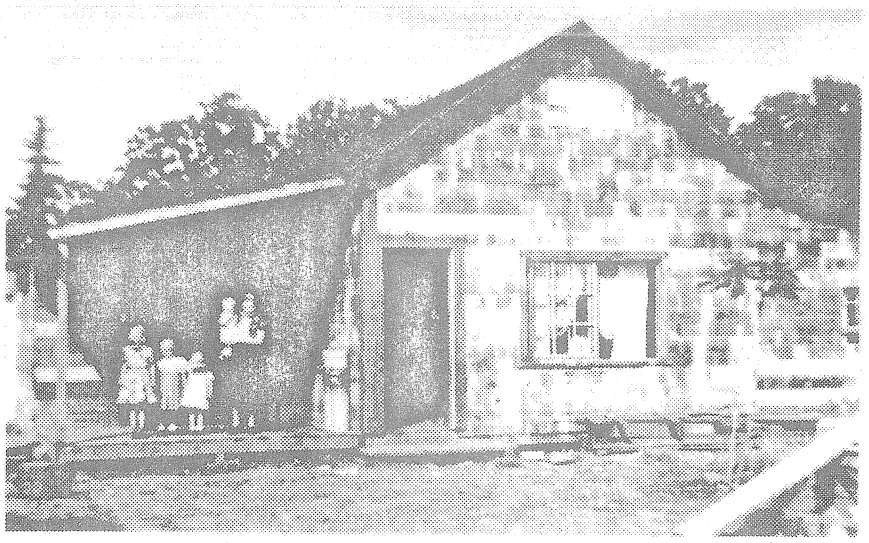
Anna and Warren's life have been active and remains so. Both are active in the church, travel to visit relatives, and are puttering with their hobbies.



Anna



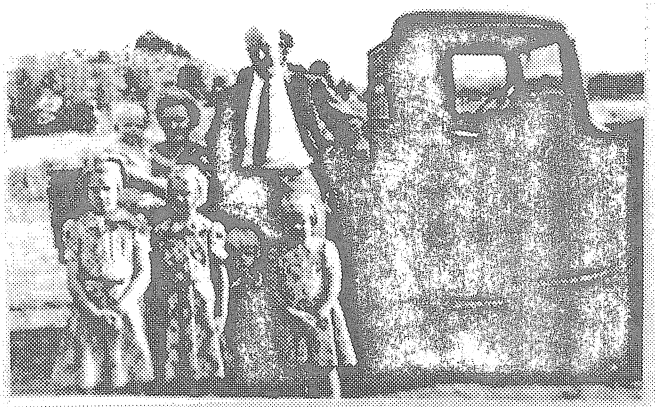
Anna & Warren with daughter Mary



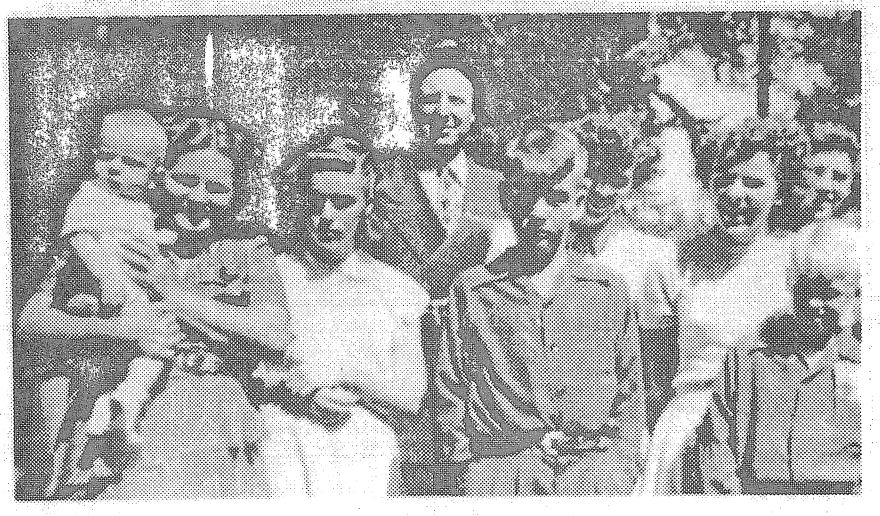
Eugene Oregon home: Mary, Evelyn, Ruth, and Anna holding Ester



Anna



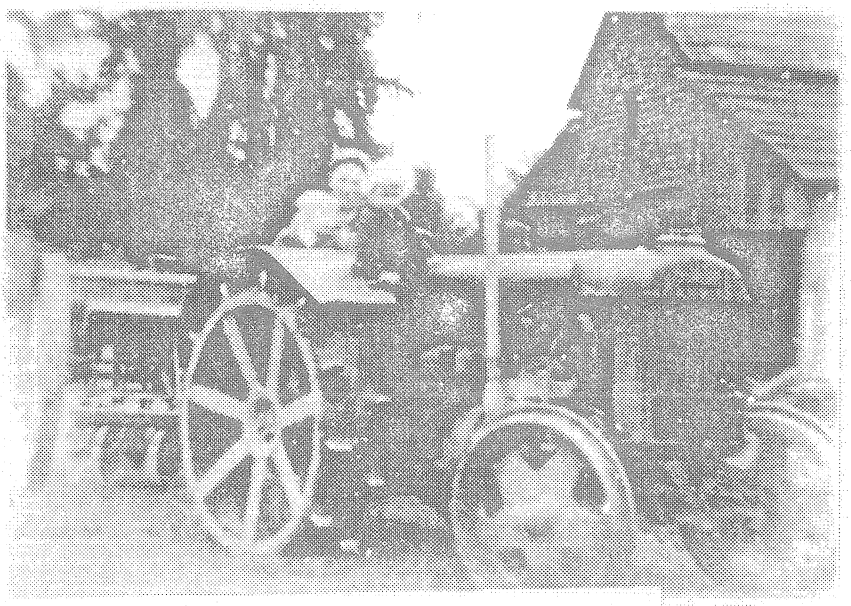
Front: Mary, Evelyn, Ester, Ruth. Back: Anna holding Paul, Warren. Oregon.



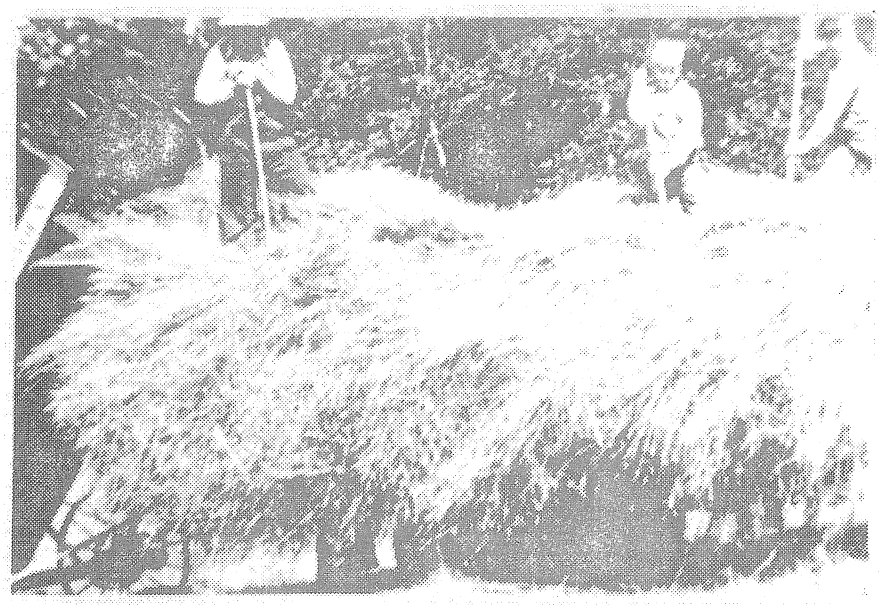
Anna holding Orelen, Ester, Warren, Paul, Evelyn Ruth, Mary, Earl.



Anna & Warren's 50th anniversary. Earl, Ester, Evelyn, Mary Orlen, Ruth, Paul. Elma Grange Hall, 1981

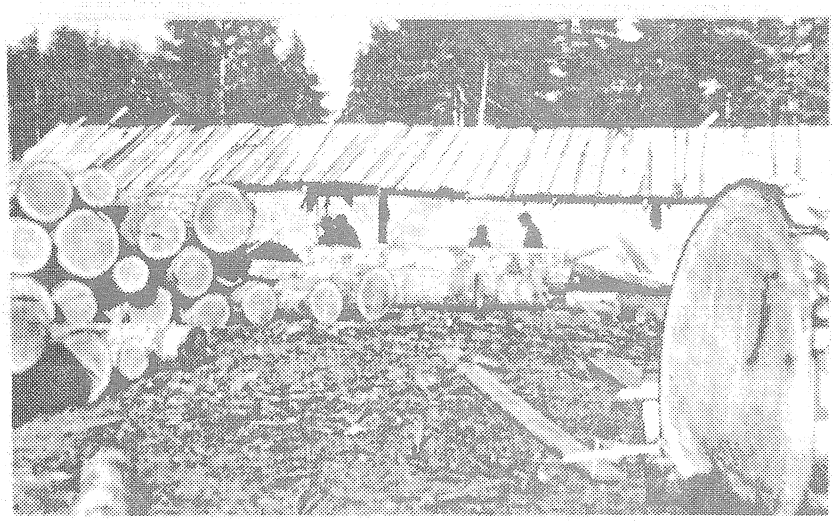


Planting time . . . Warren with Fordson tractor and drill seeder



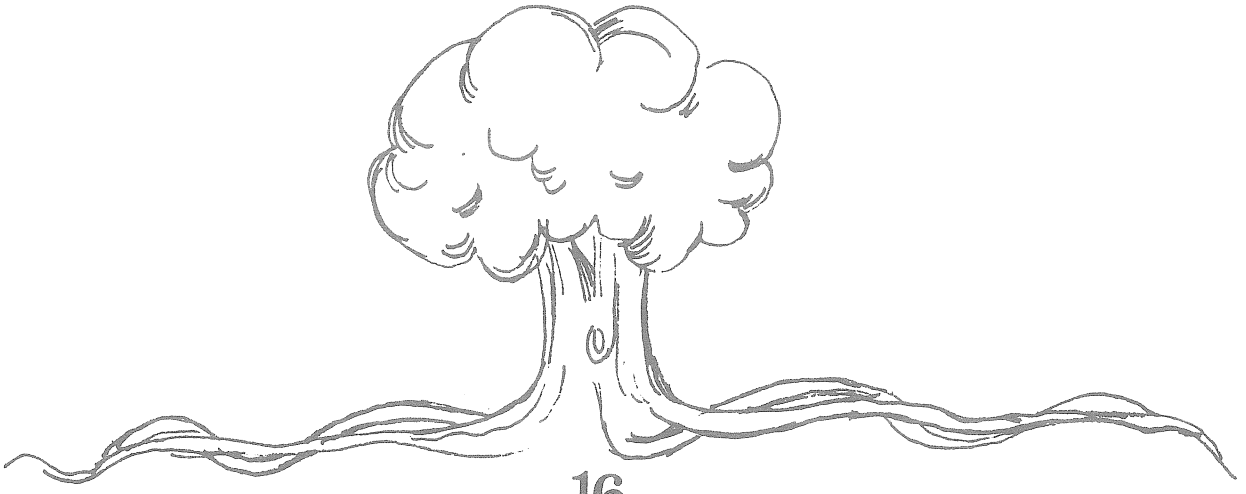
Haying time . . .

Warren, Earl, Paul



The Kingery Mill

NOTES



16

HELEN NORDWELL BATEMAN

The Helen & Aner Bateman family--Norma, Gail, Asa

Helen was born in 1914 while the family lived near Montesano. At age 4, she and the family moved, by train, to an alfalfa farm near Orland, California. In 1921 the farm went under and the family, which know included six kids, returned to Washington. They came by covered wagons leaving in May or June and pulling into their new home, a 155 acre farm near Matlock in Mason County, in late summer (see Matlock map in chapter 12).

That September, Helen joined the areas other 15 or so school age kids at the Wayside school. Wayside, which was called Grove earlier, was a typical rural school. Helen was a second grader her first year there. At the time the school had one classroom, one teacher and eight grades. The facility was out back 30 feet or so from the school. Wayside was fairly modern when it came to water. It had a hand pump inside. Some were outside, some schools fetched their water from a creek. Heating was by wood stove or furnace. Generally a parent or two stocked the school with wood but it was up to the teacher to light the fire and keep the room comfortable so the students could concentrate on studying. Of course there were the bolted down solid wood desks with their ink wells, a blackboard, an eraser or two and plenty of chalk.

Chalk was important to the kids education. What with no mimeograph, copiers and few preprinted handouts, the important things went onto the blackboard. The ABC's for the first graders, math for the third graders, geography for the eighth graders. Many of the lessons and assignments were laboriously put on the board before the kids arrived . . . for good reason. Teaching eight grades at once, four to five subjects to each, each day kept Miss Holfert, the teacher, hopping even though there were few students. The ten minute morning and afternoon recesses were probably as welcomed by the teacher as by Helen and her classmates. Recesses were a playtime for the kids. For the teacher it meant stoking the stove and getting the next lessons on the blackboard and a brief break while she monitored the play outside. Lunches lasted 30 minutes and since school lunches were unheard of, it was bring your own or do without. Ruby made Helen's lunch through the fourth grade but after that she was on her own. She didn't really have a favorite lunch. There wasn't much choice, she took what was on hand or nothing. The nearest 7-11 was 35 years away. School which started at 9:00 a.m., let out at 4:30 p.m. There were a few chores to be done before heading home. Mainly

washing the blackboard which the kids took turns doing, "voluntarily," of course.

Getting to and from school was left up to the students own devices. For Helen and her sisters, school was a little over two miles if they went by the gravel road and about 1 1/2 miles if they cut across Scott's Prairie (place) and through the Simpson Logging Camp. Going through the camp was taboo but they weren't beyond trying it when they thought they could get away with it. For a while a gypsy family camped along the way. The kids were told to stay away as "they stole kids". The biggest problem going to and from school were the bully classmates who took advantage of the trip to tease the younger ones. For the most part they walked to school, but on rare occasions went by horse. Once there the horse had to be tethered, watered and so on. When the snow got bad their dad harnessed the horse and going to school became a sleigh ride.

Motor vehicles gradually ended the era of the one-room schools. For Helen and Matlock the change came in 1926, when several small schools consolidated into the new Mary M. Knight School. It offered bus transportation, a broader curriculum and a high school. In 1931 when Helen was a junior and class secretary/treasurer the high school had four teachers and offered:

English	Algebra	General Science
French	Geometry	Social Civics
U.S. History	Typing	Vocational Civics
World History	Home Economics	

Physical Education (P. E.) was added a year or two later. For recreation there was boys and girls basketball, pep assemblies, a oratorical contest, a Christmas program, three plays and parties for valentine, halloween and so on.

In her senior year Helen quit school and married Aner Bateman in Shelton. Aner's parents were Asa Bateman, who was born in San Jose, California in 1875, and Hatti Fletcher, who was born in Seattle. The Bateman's moved to Seattle where Asa met Hatti. In 1899 they married and lived in the Georgetown community. Georgetown is the industrial area just west of Interstate 5 and between the Kingdome and the King County Airport, Boeing Field. A few homes are still in the area . . . a remnant of its days as a residential area. Asa was on the police force but apparently wanted something else of life and moved to Matlock. But not before Ruth was born in 1900, Hazel in 1902 and Aner in 1908.

It was around 1915 that they packed up their kids and belongings and left the big city to settle on an 80 acre farm about half a mile south of the Mary M. Knight School in Mason County. There, they ran beef cattle and a few sheep, and Asa got a job on the Mason County road crew. He became road foreman and continued to work for the County until his death in 1938. Hatti lived on the place until her death in 1969. They both are buried in Shelton.

*Tammy was adopted by Norma and Dayton Green on 5-16-67 at the age of 18 months. They brought her home from Spokane, Wa.

**Stepchild adopted by Clinton Green

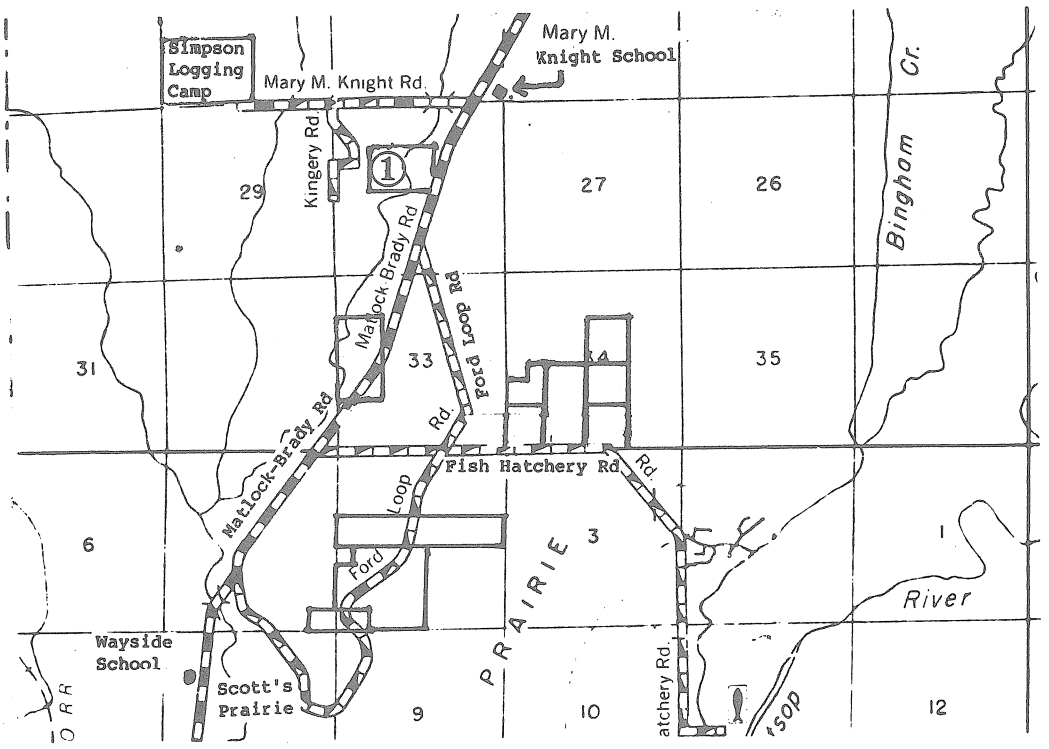
In 1916, Edwin was born, but died of diphtheria on February 12, 1920 at the age of 3 years and 3 months.

Helen and Aner got married during the depression but Aner some how was able to get a job on the Mason County road crew. He drove truck and grader most of the time and was making a very good wage for the times . . . $4.75 a day.

For the first couple of months of their marriage, they lived with Aner's parents. In the meantime, Asa was fixing up the other house on the place to make it liveable. They moved over there and spent the rest of their time in Matlock on the place. Aner's father-in-law, Pete tried to talk Aner into buying some land of his own, but Aner wasn't one to get involved in working the land.

MATLOCK, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Helen and Aner Bateman's** home when they were first married, 1932 until 1943 when they moved to Dryad. Birthplace of Norma, Gail and Asa Bateman. They shared the 80 acre farm with Aner's parents Hatti and Asa who moved there in 1915. The current address is Rt. 1, Box 138, Elma, WA.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Matlock map in Chapter 12.

Norma was born in 1932 and Gail in 1934. Both were born at home with the doctor coming out from Shelton to make delivery.

In 1938, Grampa Asa died. Shortly after that, Aner quit his job with the County and went into heavy construction. He drove equipment for a while for the Schaffer Brothers Logging Company.

In 1942 Asa A. was born. By this time, though, doctors weren't making house calls, so for Asa, life began at the Shelton hospital. Hatti wanted Asa to be named after her granddad and promised Aner if he would, she'd give the new Asa a savings bond.

Construction work started to take Aner out of the area. In 1942 he got a job at the Meskill Rock Quarry near Dryad. He set a trailer next to their quarry and started commuting, returning to Matlock on weekends. After about a year of commuting, Helen and the three kids moved to Dryad in 1943. Dryad had been a bustling logging community, but it was more quiet than bustling by the time they arrived. The center of activity was the general store which was also the post office, bus station, and get-together place. In the summer, Rainbow Falls was the place, at least for the kids. The post office closed about 1958 but the store remained open through the 1960's.

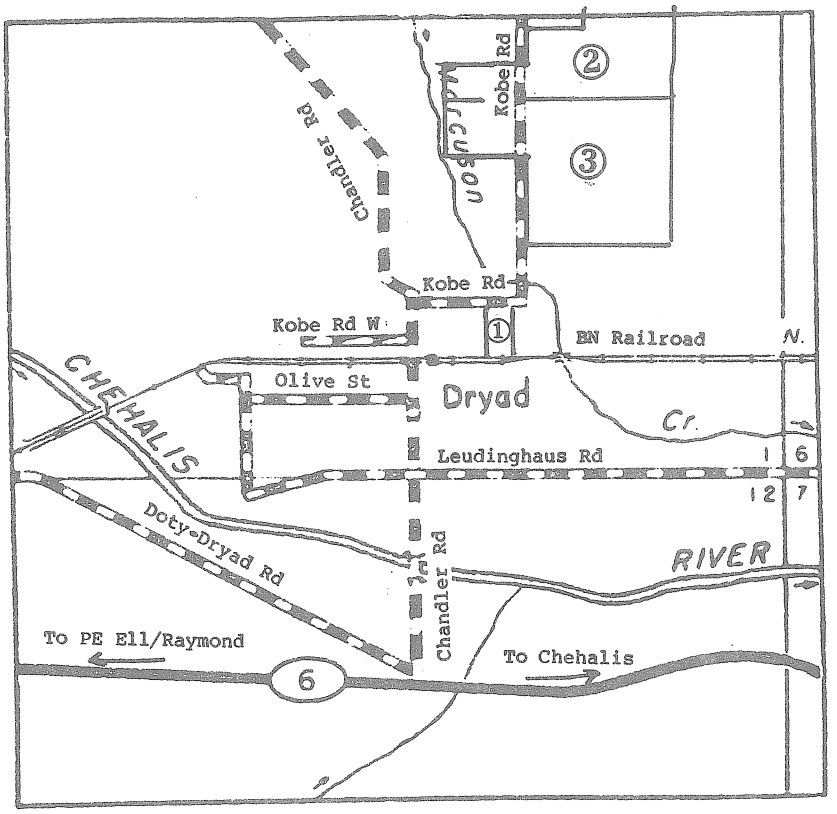
Helen and Aner bought a two bedroom house on a lot from Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Gates. The house was located on what is now 128 Kobe Road in Dryad. The house is now the home of their son Asa and Kay Bateman. They tried to bargain the Gates down, but they wouldn't budge. It was $800 cash or no deal. Raising the money wasn't easy. Aner's mother reluctantly loaned them the money. It wasn't that she didn't want to help, but as the same time, she wasn't so sure she'd ever be paid back. But, faithfully she got $20 a month until it was paid off.

Aner stayed with heavy construction. He worked on the Mossyrock Dam in the 1950's. He later took a job with St. Regis near Morton. There he put up a trailer and came home on weekends. Construction work was demanding and also dangerous. Aner felt he was getting too old to handle the bigger equipment, so he went back to driving grader in 1968. On a snowy day he slipped off the grader and cracked his neck. The doctoring never really worked out and that meant retirement at age 60.

Norma married Dayton Green in the early 1950's and Gail married Carl "Cork" Karboski in the mid-fifties. Around then Helen started doing seasonal work. At first she picked ferns, worked in the strawberries, picked fir cones and whatever else came along. Around 1955, she started to work at Ticknor Farms (now Simons) on Ford's Prairie, just south of Centralia. At first, this was also seasonal, but as she got seniority, the job became full time, year round. She and four others hoed the strawberries, pruned the blackberry bushes, worked in the cannery in the summer, and in the winter they broke down the bulk frozen produce and packaged them for shipment to stores. In 1965 she moved over to Northwest Mobile Homes as an assembler, but got laid off. This time, Helen decided to try something different and went to work at the Kit Carson Restaurant. After a short stay, she happily accepted a job with Mouduline in 1967.

DRYAD, WASHINGTON

Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 1/4 mile



(1) Home of **Aner and Helen Bateman** from 1943 to 1971. The current address is 128 Kobe Rd. The house, which has been remodelled, is the home of their son **Asa and Kay Bateman**. From here Helen and Aner moved to 324 NW Florida in Chehalis.

(2) The home of Helen and Aner's daughter **Gail and Cork Karboski**; 157 Kobe Rd.

(3) The home of Cork's brother and originally the Karboski's home place.

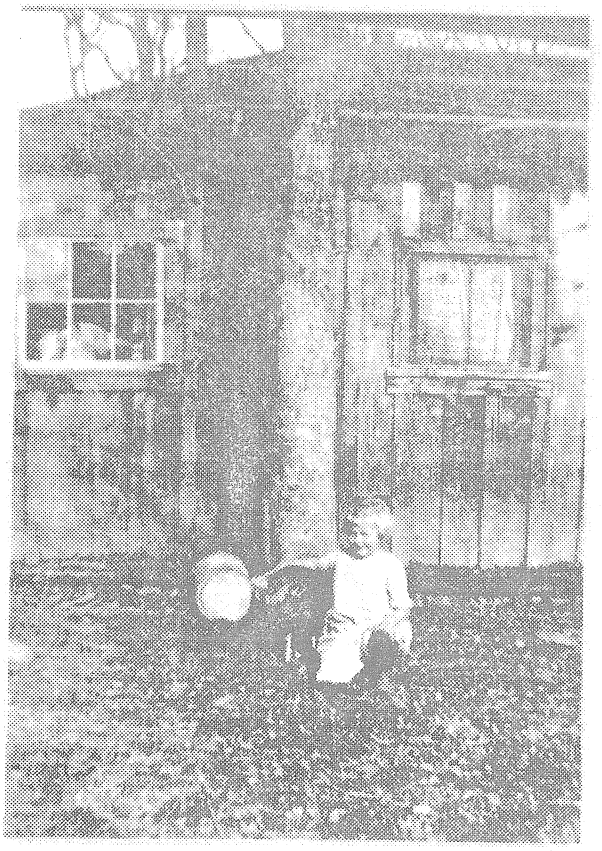
Directions: Dryad is located off Highway 6 between Chehalis and Raymond. From Chehalis take I-5 Exit #77 and go west about 17 miles toward Raymond. The Dryad turn off . . . Chandler Rd. . . . is about a mile past Rainbow Falls State Park. Turn right onto Chandler and then a half mile later turn right onto Kobe Rd.

Helen and Aner moved from Dryad in 1971 to their current home at 342 North West Florida Street. As they moved out Asa, Kay and their two kids, Karla and Asa moved in. The new home was in a small quiet neighborhood, much like Dryad, but only a two minute hop to Chehalis.

In 1976, at age 62, Helen retired from Mouduline. To Helen retirement has meant more time to travel . . . to bingo games and Reno. She's been playing bingo for 30 years now and reportedly 1985 has bought two of her three biggest pots. She's also become something of a Florence Nightengale. She has spent a lot of time and effort caring for "Pete" and Hazel when they became seriously ill (see Chapters 13 and 17). In retirement, Aner perfected his pool game and got a car and motorbike for getting around. He had a big Harley Davidson in his earlier days and found a bike to still be a cheap and fun way to go. He rode his Yamaha in all but the worst weather.

At age 73, Aner got picked up for drunk driving, DWI. The realization that if he got caught again he'd lose his license led to some serious contemplation . . . Aner went cold turkey on the drinking but kept on with his pool game and bike riding until his last days.

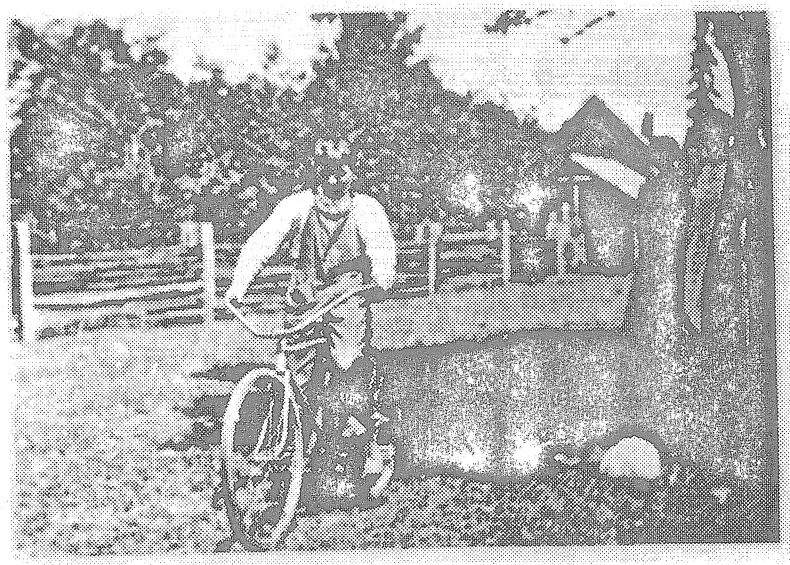
In January, 1982, Helen and Aner celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. About two years later, on September 25, 1983, Aner passed away of a massive heart attack. Aner was 75 and now lays at rest at the Sunset Memorial Garden in Chehalis, Washington.



Helen Nordwell with pet turkey at Orland, CA farm



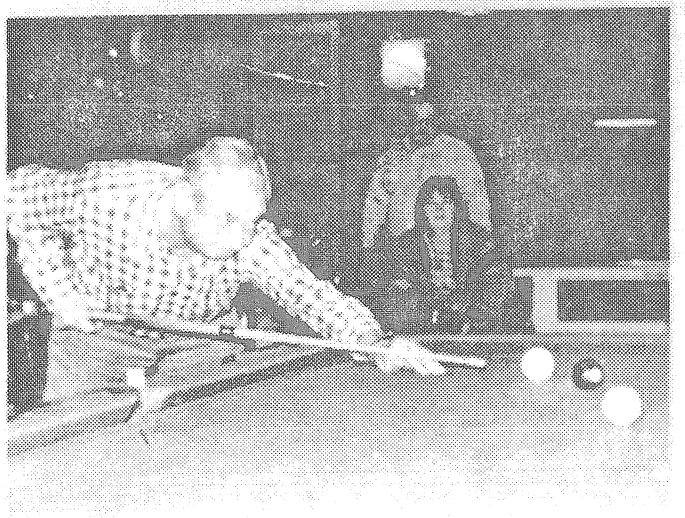
Helen holding Norma



Aner at Bateman farm



Aner in his grader



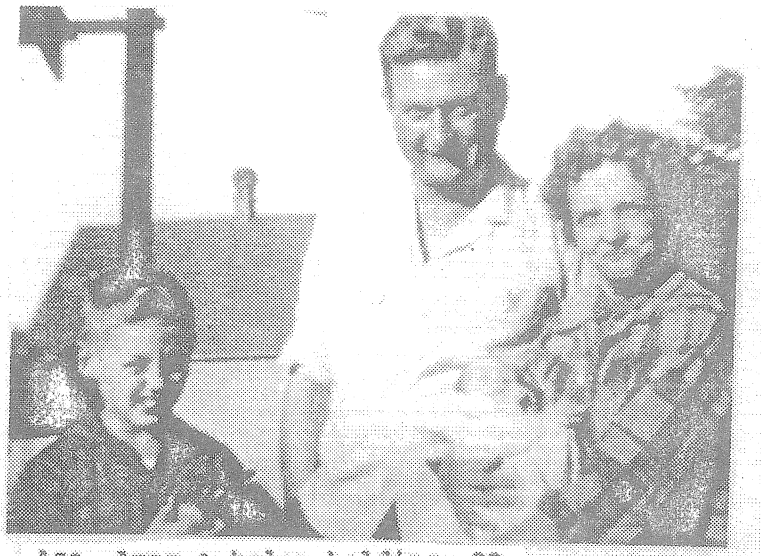
Aner . . . pool shark



Aner and his Harley



Aner and his Kawasaki at 1983 family picnic. Bucoda, WA



Asa, Aner & helen holding ??



Norma & Gail with their grandma Pete, Ruby NOrdwell



The Batemans: Norma Green, Aner, Helen, Asa, Gail Karboski



Norma

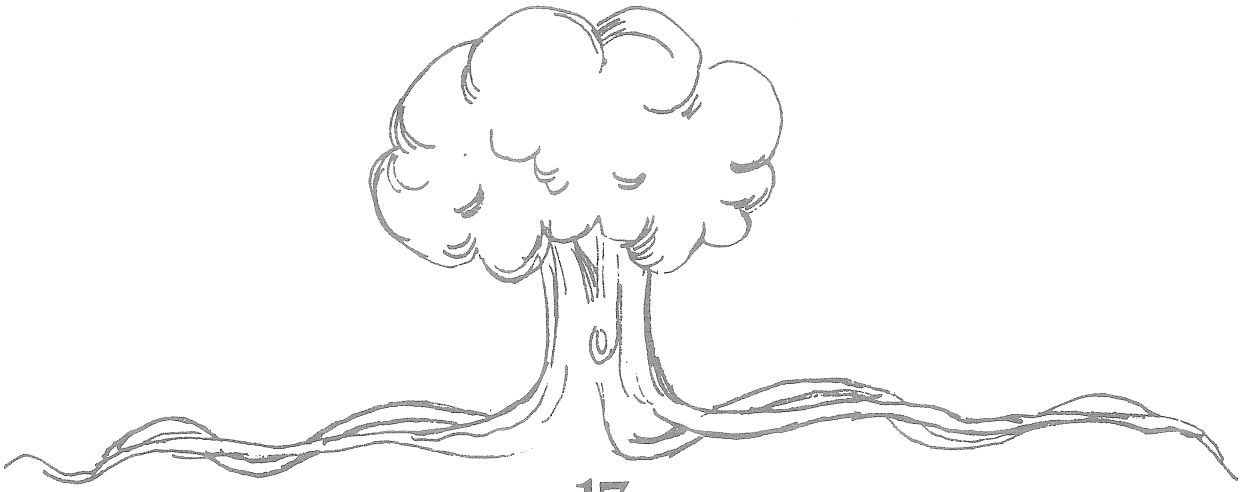


Helen & Aner's 50th Anniversary



Gail

NOTES



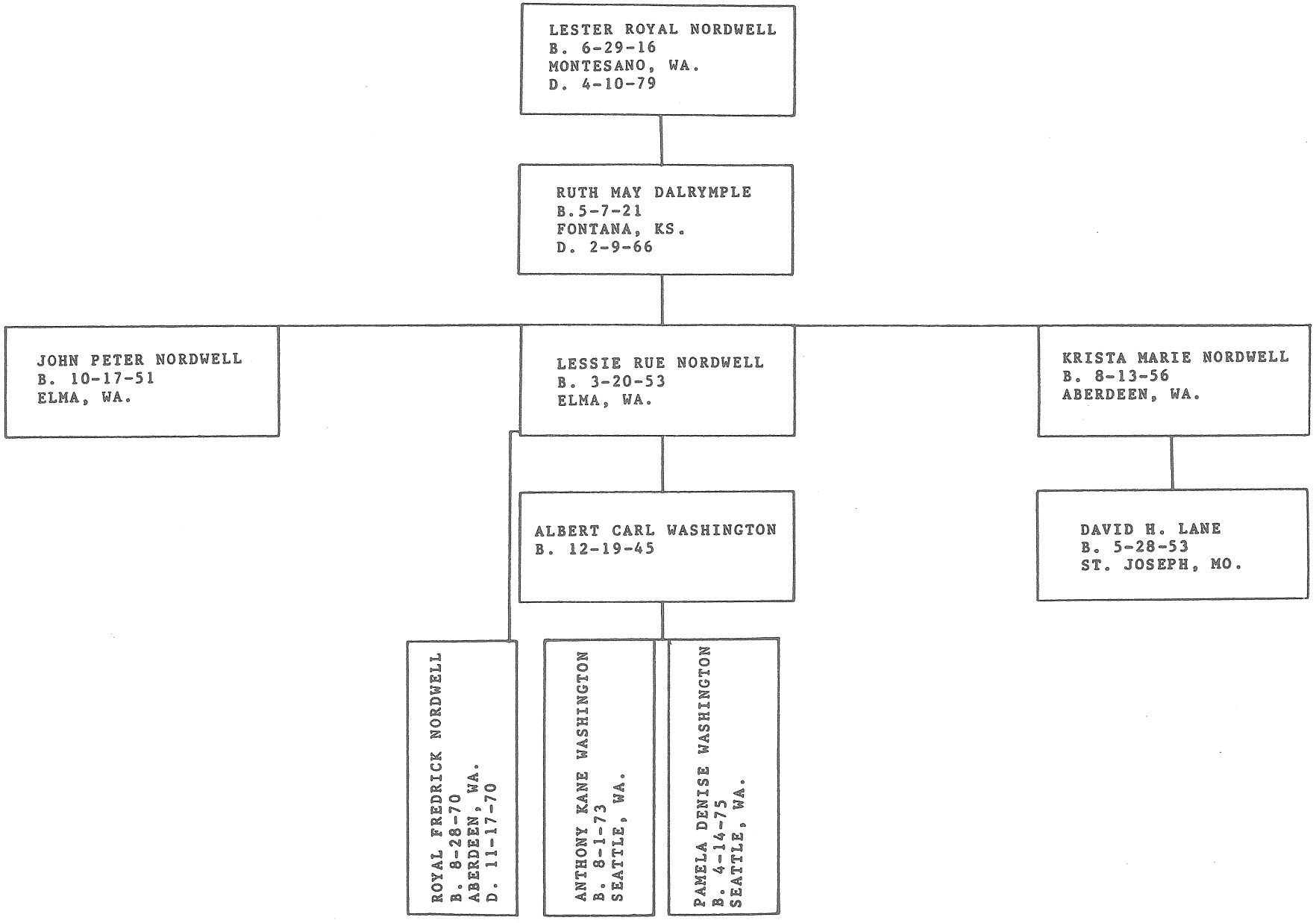
17

LESTER "PETE" NORDWELL
The Pete & Ruth Dalrymple family--John Peter, Lessie, Krista

"Pete," as Lester was called, was the family entertainer and later, family chauffeur. His vocal efforts started early but his siblings seldom called it singing! He probably would have been willing to do the chauffeuring right away too, but he wasn't old enough.

"Pete" was born June 29, 1916 while the Nordwells were living near Montesano. He became their only son as John and William had died earlier and Ernie wasn't born until 1921. He celebrated his fifth birthday on the trail when the family was moving by covered wagon from California to Matlock. As he got older he became his dad's right handman. He helped with the haying, cow milking, gardening and his favorite . . . cowpunching. That is driving the cattle to the range on horseback in the spring, checking on them during the summer and bringing them home before hunting season and the winter snow. Cowpunching also meant watching for new calves to make sure they were ok and when they got old enough, dehorning those that needed it and splitting an ear with the Nordwell identification mark.

By the late 1920's Henry Ford's assembly lines were in full production. That's when motor cars became affordable to most families . . . including the Nordwells. They got a Model T pickup and later got a Model T sedan. They kept their horses and wagons for the farm work but driving cars was now the fun thing to do. "Pete" picked up on that right away. He learned to drive when he was fairly young by helping his dad with the chores. When he could talk his dad into it he drove around the place just for fun. One summer he and Ernie were raking the hay but it was taking far too long. The lake was waiting. "Pete" unhitched the horses and hooked the pickup to the rake and zipped around the field! Ernie who was on the rake, hung on for dear life and tried his best to make straight rows. When Pete and Ruby went to town "Pete" and the other kids sometimes snuck the vehicle that was left behind for a fun ride. See Chapter 12 for the stories. In 1930 "Pete" and Warren Kingery were helping Pete sell alder as pulp wood. Pete cut and split the wood. "Pete" and Warren loaded it onto the Model T truck. "Pete" then took the load to Matlock where he and Warren stacked the wood on a flat car for shipment to Raynior plant in Shelton. When he became 16 in 1931 he chauffeured his brothers and sisters whenever he could; to Lake Newatzel for a swim, to the Matlock store, to school occasionally, and to dances.


LESTER ROYAL NORDWELL
B. 6-29-16
MONTESANO, WA.
D. 4-10-79
RUTH MAY DALRYMPLE
B.5-7-21
FONTANA, KS.
D. 2-9-66
JOHN PETER NORDWELL
B. 10-17-51
ELMA, WA.
LESSIE RUE NORDWELL
B. 3-20-53
ELMA, WA.
KRISTA MARIE NORDWELL
B. 8-13-56
ABERDEEN, WA.
ALBERT CARL WASHINGTON
B. 12-19-45
DAVID H. LANE
B. 5-28-53
ST. JOSEPH, MO.
ROYAL FREDRICK NORDWELL
B. 8-28-70
ABERDEEN, WA.
D. 11-17-70
ANTHONY KANE WASHINGTON
B. 8-1-73
SEATTLE, WA.
PAMELA DENISE WASHINGTON
B. 4-14-75
SEATTLE, WA.

"Pete" wasn't that interested in school. He apparently was too busy being the class clown to get his work done and left school in the 9th or 10th grade. The 1931 school annual says that he was on the soccer team. The soccer he played is thought to be more like rugby then the soccer being played in schools today.

After he got out of school he continued to live at home and help around the farm. In 1936, not long after Ruby lost her leg "Pete's" cousin Elsie Purviance, now Eschbach came for a visit. She helped around the house doing dishes, some cooking and making the beds. "Pete" soon wished she had left his bed alone. The bed had a straw mattress that sagged and sagged. To help out, Elsie propped it up with apple boxes. For "Pete," who always leaped into bed, it was a startling and bruising experience.

As 1940 approached "Pete" was working in the woods, and took jobs as they came up. As always he helped around the home. By now only he and Ernie were still at home. When World War II became official in late 1941 "Pete" laid back and waited to be drafted. He wasn't that excited about being a soldier and also felt that Pete could use his help around the farm. To his surprise Uncle Sam's greeting didn't arrive until 1943.

He spent a year or so in the USA, at Fort Lewis near Tacoma and at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin before going to Europe. He was in Europe only a few months when Germany surrendered on May 6, 1945; VE Day. Thousands upon thousands of US soldiers went home. But "Pete" and many others were sent to the Pacific where the war with Japan continued. Three months later President Truman gave the order to use the nuclear bomb. The first one was dropped August 6th on Hiroshima. When there was no surrender, another bomb was dropped. This one on Nagasaki on August 9th. That brought surrender, which was formalized on September 2, 1945 on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

"Pete" probably thought he was coming home but it wasn't to be just yet. The US decided to occupy Japan, that is to keep troops in the Pacific after the surrender. This was to make sure the word of surrender got to all remote islands and to have troops available in case of a flare up. "Pete's" unit stayed on. In a December 14, 1945 letter to Olive, Ruby, his mother wrote: "Lester is still in Manila and hates it worse everyday." He got home on March 8, 1946.

Just what "Pete's" job was in the Army and where he was stationed is not known for sure, as most of his official military records have been destroyed by fire. In the Pacific, Corporal Lester Nordwell #39203557 was with the 1478th Engineer Maintenance Company. Engineer Maintenance units were non-combat groups that supported the combat troops. Excerpts from a letter he sent his sister Mary Roderick dated October 3, 1945 gives a glimpse of his military life:

> " . . . I have quite a bit of time this afternoon. We moved Sunday and since then we have been working. I was on guard last night and today just got off. We sure worked for 3 days tho my

hands are sore and my legs and back are sore. We've been building platforms and floors for our tents. That's hard work when you've sat on your ass as long as we have. I didn't think I'd ever see the time when I'd welcome guard or KP but I sure did this time. I'm on KP day after tomorrow. This will be a pretty good place when we get it fixed-up. About that time we'll probably move again. That's about all we've done since we've been overseas. Clean and fix a place to live and move out and leave it for somebody else to move into. We are living in a big open shed with a tin roof now it rains so hard there is a spray all over the building. I worked the last 2 days without my shirt on now my shoulders are so sunburned I can't hardly stand it on . . . "

"Pete" ate his 1945 Thanksgiving turkey in the Phillipines. Other memories would include his many days of travel on the troop ships and driving jeep. The troop ships weren't his fondest memories. They were crowded, bunks were stacked 3 and 4 high with less than 2 feet between each. He had too many trips, first to Europe then clear across two oceans to the Phillipines and then home to the USA. The memorable part of these trips was the bad weather and the many days of sea sickness he suffered as a result.

"Pete" loved to drive jeep and Ernie got the impression he drove a lot, probably as his unit moved from camp to camp. Back home both "Pete" and Ernie bought surplus jeeps. "Pete" showed Ernie all the ropes of driving a jeep on the Carstairs Prairie and into the woods and on mountain roads.

After the war, "Pete" lived at home helping on the farm and working in the woods when he could. He worked for Virgil Beerbower off and on for about 4 years. During one of his lay-offs "Pete" and Ernie reported in every Friday at the Aberdeen Unemployment Office. When they could they stayed around for a night out at the taverns and dances. "Pete" met Ruth Dalrymple on one of those trips. On December 29, 1940 "Pete" and Ruth were married with Virgil Beerbower and Nona Beerbower Summers standing in as witnesses. "Pete" was 33 at the time and Ruth, 28.

Ruby described the preparation for the marriage this way in a December 18, 1949 letter to Olive: "Lester has 80 acres and a small house and an Orchard on it. He's planning on getting married soon. They moved there furniture up yesterday and she is up there today painting and cleaning."

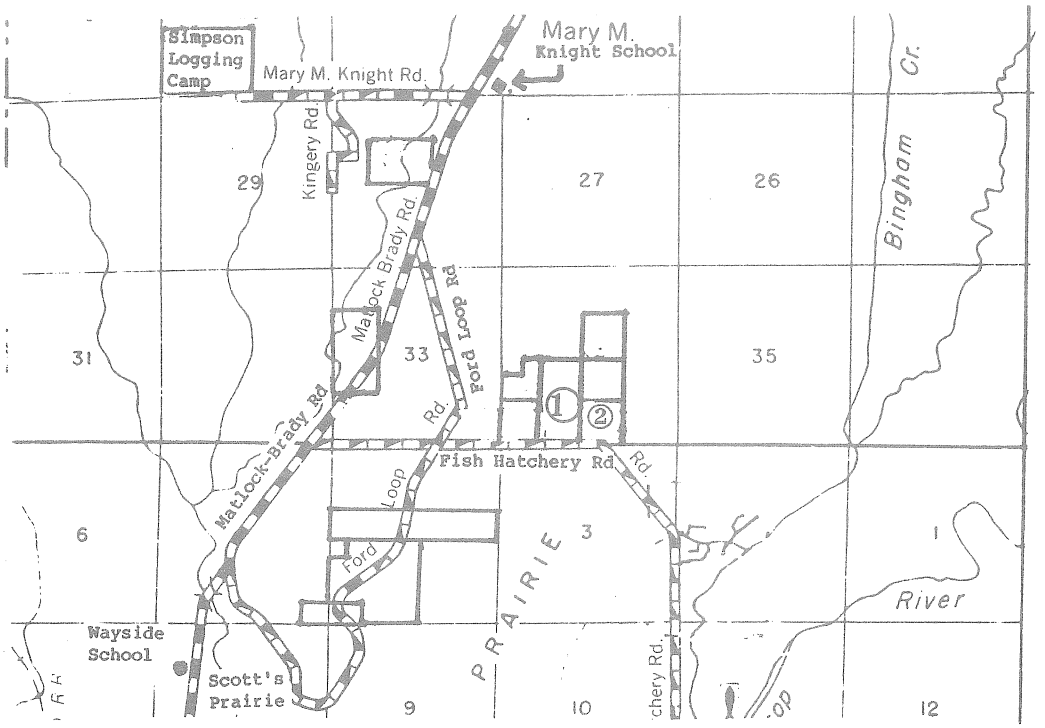
Ruth's parents, Ray and Edna Shearer Dalrymple lived in Hoquiam and had four other kids: Ray Jr., Coreen , Mary and Jim. They had moved out from Fontana, Kansas.

By 1950 "Pete" was working on Mason County road crew. In the winters he'd run the snow plow and the rest of the year he helped with road maintenance.

October 17, 1951 marked the arrival of John Pete Nordwell who was named after his greatgrandfather. A year and a half later, on March 20, 1953

MATLOCK, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Peter J. Nordwell's** 80 acres which he later gave to his son Lester, "Pete." **Was "Pete" and Ruth Nordwell's** home from 1949-1955. "Pete" added the 40 acres of ② to the property along the way which also belonged to his dad before he got it. Birthplace of John and Lessie Nordwell. From here the family moved to Pacific Beach.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Matlock map in Chapter 12.

Lessie Rue was born. Both were born in the hospital at Elma and both were tikes. John was the smallest and stayed in the hospital three months before he had enough weight to go home.

At about this time, 1952 to be exact, "Pete" started working for Warren and Hiram Kingery Logging. For the most part he ran cat and fell trees. As always he helped his dad when he could with the farming, but now earning enough to support his family came first. This required going from job to job. That was a fact of life from the 1930's through the 1950's, at least in the rural logging areas. Then working for the same company 20 or 30 years, even 10 years was a rarity. Several factors played a role in this economic reality. First, most logging companies were small operations and few managed to stay in business as long as 10 years. Lay-offs were frequent and unemployment compensation which started in the 1930's offered up to $37.50 a week in 1946 but most got less. In short when you were out of work, it wasn't long before you'd be out of money. Under the local economic conditions there wasn't much opportunity to save for a rainy day . . . it rained too often. So when you were laid off you went and found another job. For many like Aner and Clyde, they moved with the job or to where there were jobs. For those like "Pete", Ernie, and Lynn who had timbered land they could wait for a new job locally. If a job didn't turn up right away they could tough out a lay-off by logging their own place, selling logs, plug poles or cedar shakes.

Today this has all changed. Higher unemployment compensation and extended benefits makes it possible to wait out all but the longest of lay-offs. Pensions, seniority rights and medical benefits have tied the worker to their job and company . . . and thus are less willing to start over.

In 1955 Warren and Hiram's business went broke and "Pete" found himself unemployed again. He and Ruth decided it was time for them to leave the area. They sold their 80 acres, which had been logged off by then, and moved to Pacific Beach about 20 miles west of Hoquiam. "Pete" got on at the Aloha Cedar Mill about 10 miles to the north. About a year later on August 13, 1956 Krista Marie was born. She was a flyweight like John and Lessie, weighing in at 4 pounds 14 ounces. All the kids went through school at Moclips.

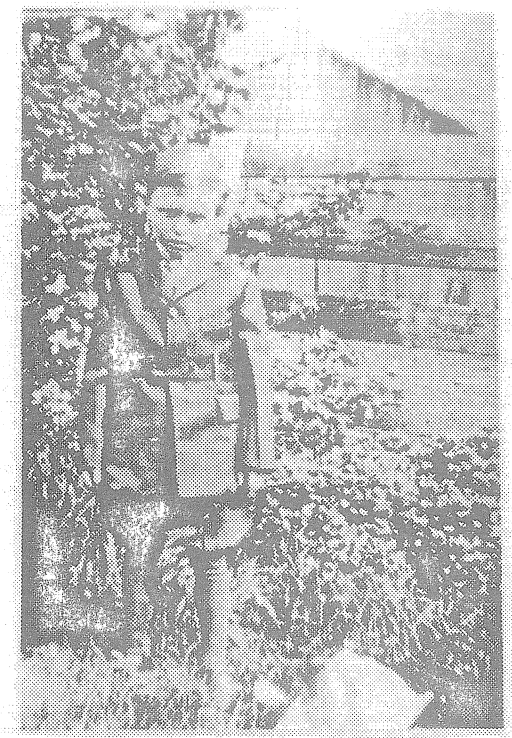
While at Pacific Beach "Pete" became active in the Veteran of Foreign Wars, being elected Commander of Post #8956 for a year. He was also a member of the American Legion Post at Moclips. He also liked to clam dig and returned to Matlock for deer hunting season.

Ruth became very sick in 1961. The diagnosis, cancer. In many ways Ruth had a tough life. She had epilepsy since childhood. It wasn't until later that medicines were in general use for control of the seizures. She wasn't able to work outside the home nor drive a car. Her sister-in-laws feel that she seemed to stay home and limited her visiting more than she needed to. She likely did so for fear of a seizure.

Ruth fought the cancer, spending several months in the hospital and taking treatments. Gladys Mason who was married to George Sackrider helped "Pete" with the kids during this time. After about 5 years, when Ruth was 44 cancer claimed another victim.

"Pete" continued to work at the Aloha mill for another 10 years. It was in 1976 that his emphysema got so bad that he had to retire at age 60, after 19 years at the mill. By then his kids had left the area. John was serving in the Army and stationed in Hawaii, Lessie in Seattle and Krista in St. Joseph, Missouri.

The emphysema really knocked "Pete" down. He barely had enough energy to get his own meals let alone all the other things that needed to be done. For one, his disability claim with Social Security wasn't moving. So his sister Helen Bateman made her first of many trips from Chehalis to Moclips to help. After several visits to the doctor and the Social Security office in Aberdeen his medical claim was approved. Within a few months Helen convinced "Pete" to move to Chehalis so she could take better care of him. He moved into an apartment. Helen shopped for him, cleaned house when it needed it and made sure he had an adequate oxygen supply. Later he was admitted to the Veterans Hospital in Vancouver, again with Helen's help. He was in and out of the hospital over the next two and one half years. For much of his last year at home his oxygen tank was a constant companion. On April 10, 1979 he passed away at age 62. Both he and Ruth are buried at Sunset Memorial Park in Hoquiam.



Lester "Pete" in his knickers at family's original Matlock home



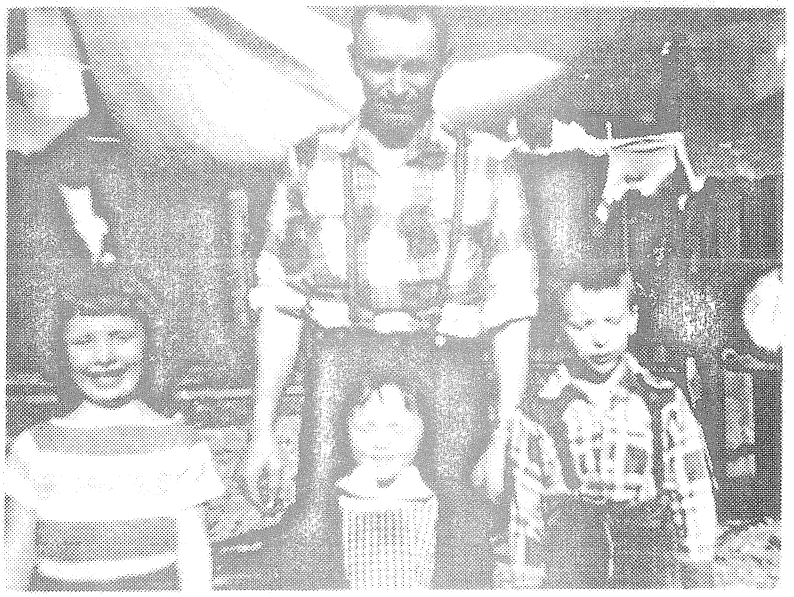
Lester with Hazel



Lester & Ruth on honeymoon



Lester "Pete" with is dad Pete



Lessie, Krista, John with their dad "Pete"



Lester . . . on the job



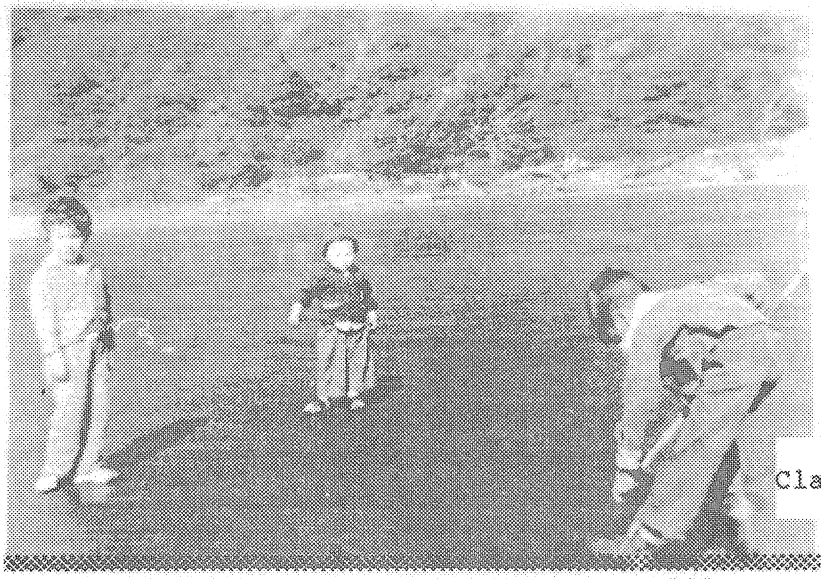
Lester "Pete" & Ruth with baby John



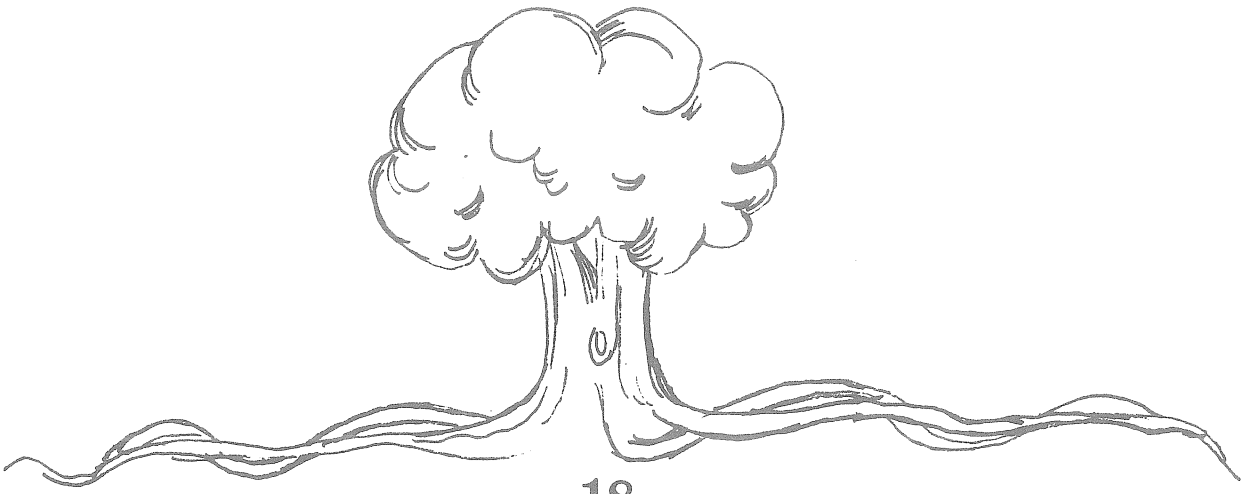
Lester logging for Beerbower



Ruth & Lester at Copalis Beach



Clam digging? Lessie, Krista, John



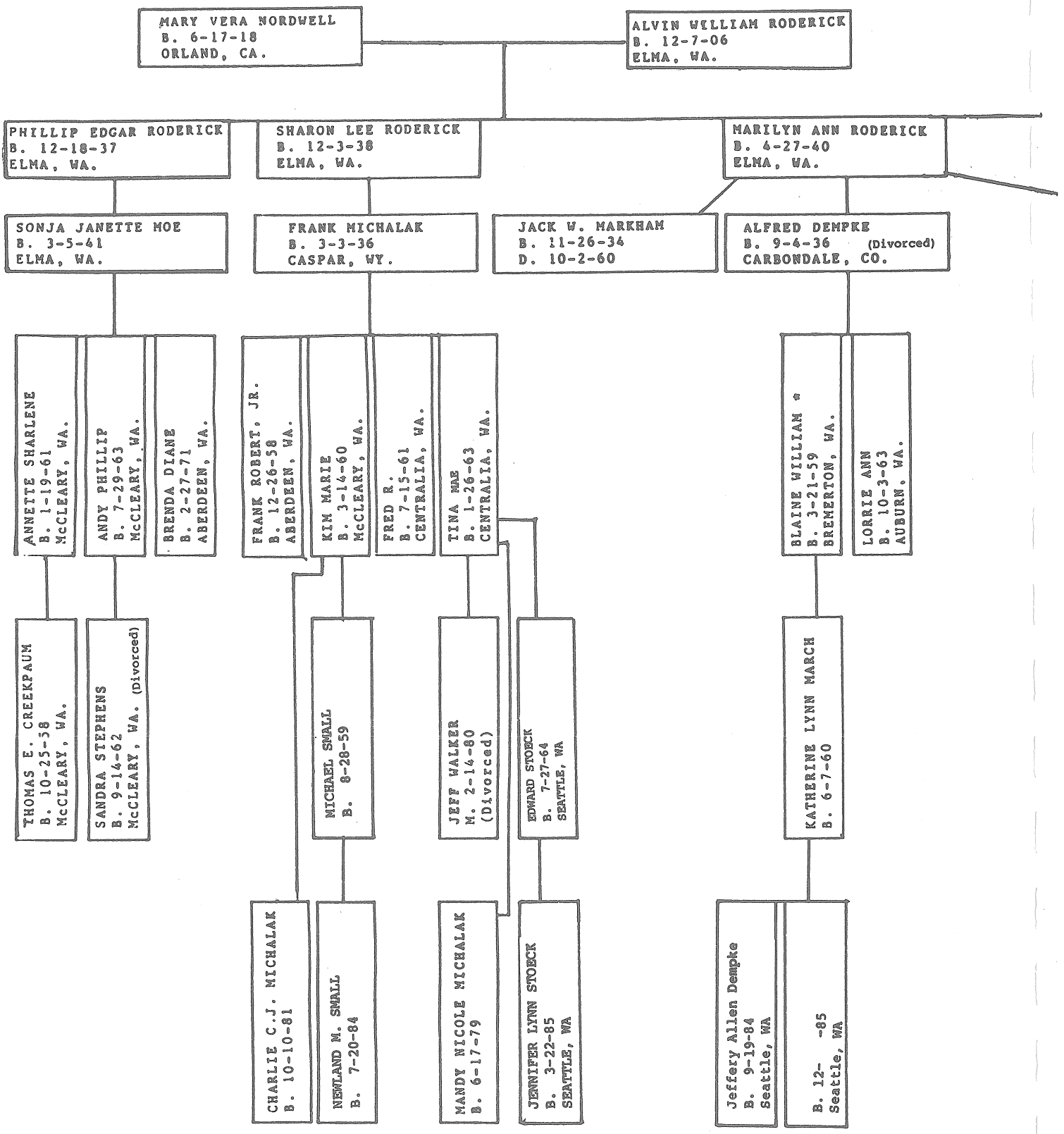
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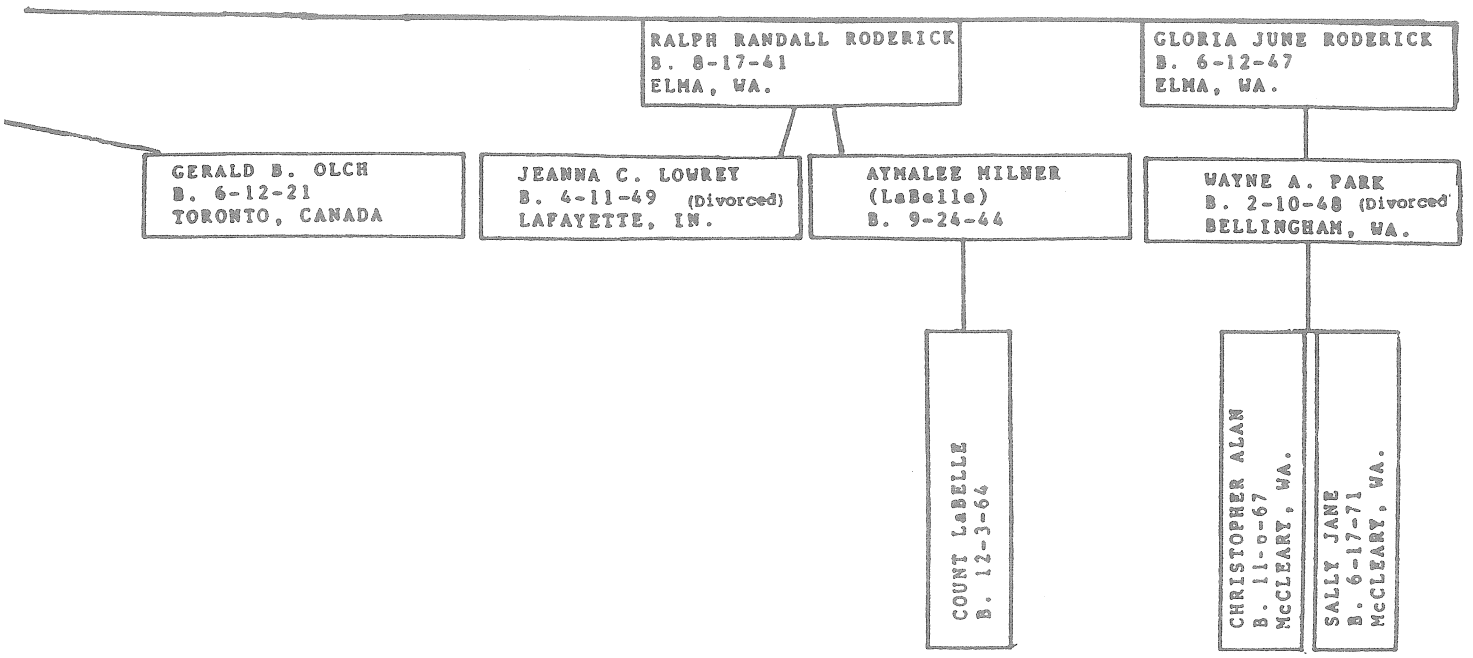
MARY NORDWELL RODERICK
The Mary & Alvin Roderick and family--Phillip, Sharon, Marilyn, Ralph, Gloria

At age 3 Mary Vera Nordwell was bouncing in a covered wagon along with the other nine in the family. The three month journey started in Orland, California and ended at their new farm near Matlock, Washington in Mason County. That was in the summer of 1921.

Three years later she started the first grade at the Wayside School, a two mile walk from home. Then in 1926 Mary traveled to school by bus to the newly opened Mary M. Knight School. Quaint little Wayside was closed. Prior to 1926 there was no high school in the area. Elma, Montesano, and Shelton were all about 20 miles away. Since there was no bus to these places few, if anybody, went beyond the eighth grade. Mary M. Knight changed all that and in 1934 Mary graduated. She literally skipped through school. First she skipped the fourth grade and then the seventh. At age 12 she found herself in high school. While school was a snap, Mary at times wished she was with kids her her own age. The Nordwell kids tended to be the smallest in their class to start with and being younger than her classmates she got the message that she was a tag along more often than she liked. Her size was also a disadvantage in sports, Nearly all the girls in the high school were on the basketball team. Mary got to play in the games but mainly because the rules said all the players had to be played.

At home she did a little of everything. Her least favorite chore was bringing the firewood into the house. Seems as though fleas waited in the woodpile and hopped onto Mary every change they got. It was in her senior year that she met Alvin Roderick, a farmer and logger from South Elma. They met at a dance at the Dayton Grange Hall, about ten miles due east of the Matlock store. On November 15, 1935 they were married in Shelton. They settled on the 240 acre Roderick farm 5 1/2 miles south of Elma. (See South Elma map in this Chapter.) Alvin's parents Edgar Byron and Laura were both born in the area -- Byron on January 20, 1874 and Laura on September 1, 1879. Laura's family were Pennsylvania Dutch but her dad, Daniel Infield, later moved the family to Ohio not far from where Byron's folks Grant and Lu Jane farmed. The families knew each other in Ohio but came west separately, during the 1870's. Both settled on Ford's Prairie just up the trail (now its a road) from Mary and Alvin's home at 576 South Bank Road. Alvin was born at the family farm on December 7, 1906.

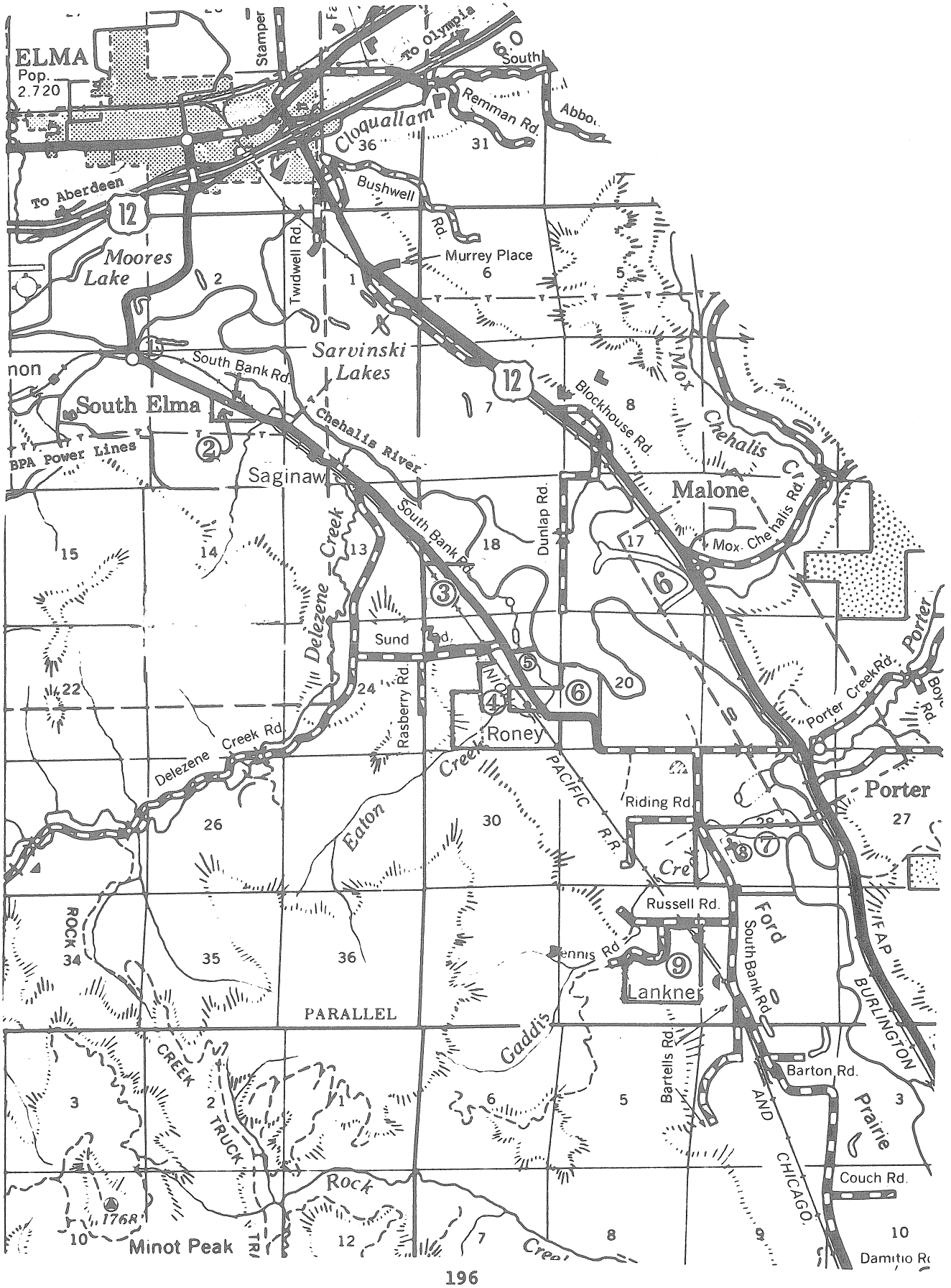

MARY VERA NORDWELL
B. 6-17-18
ORLAND, CA.
ALVIN WILLIAM RODERICK
B. 12-7-06
ELMA, WA.
PHILLIP EDGAR RODERICK
B. 12-18-37
ELMA, WA.
SHARON LEE RODERICK
B. 12-3-38
ELMA, WA.
MARILYN ANN RODERICK
B. 4-27-40
ELMA, WA.
SONJA JANETTE MOE
B. 3-5-41
ELMA, WA.
FRANK MICHALAK
B. 3-3-36
CASPAR, WY.
JACK W. MARKHAM
B. 11-26-34
D. 10-2-60
ALFRED DEMPKE
B. 9-4-36 (Divorced)
CARBONDALE, CO.
ANNETTE SHARLENE
B. 1-19-61
McCLEARY, WA.
ANDY PHILLIP
B. 7-29-63
McCLEARY, WA.
BRENDA DIANE
B. 2-27-71
ABERDEEN, WA.
FRANK ROBERT, JR.
B. 12-26-58
ABERDEEN, WA.
KIM MARIE
B. 3-14-60
McCLEARY, WA.
FRED R.
B. 7-15-61
CENTRALIA, WA.
TINA MAE
B. 1-26-63
CENTRALIA, WA.
BLAINE WILLIAM *
B. 3-21-59
BREMERTON, WA.
LORRIE ANN
B. 10-3-63
AUBURN, WA.
THOMAS E. CREEKPAUM
B. 10-25-58
McCLEARY, WA.
SANDRA STEPHENS
B. 9-14-62
McCLEARY, WA. (Divorced)
MICHAEL SMALL
B. 8-28-59
JEFF WALKER
M. 2-14-80
(Divorced)
EDWARD STOECK
B. 7-27-64
SEATTLE, WA
KATHERINE LYNN MARCH
B. 6-7-60
CHARLIE C.J. MICHALAK
B. 10-10-81
NEWLAND M. SMALL
B. 7-20-84
MANDY NICOLE MICHALAK
B. 6-17-79
JENNIFER LYNN STOECK
B. 3-22-85
SEATTLE, WA
Jeffery Allen Dempke
B. 9-19-84
Seattle, WA
B. 12- -85
Seattle, WA



*Blaine Markham Dempke was adopted by Al Dempke.

(SOUTH) ELMA, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 Mile



(1) **Edith and Lynn Roderick**; the railroads house which they lived in from 1936 to 1939. Demolished in 1985 it was located between the road and tracks across from what is now 141(?) South Bank Rd. It is 1/10 of a mile on your left after you turn onto South Bank Rd. See Chp. 19.

(2) **Anna and Warren Kingery**; their 15 acre home from 1963 to 1965. . . . the property is about 3/4 mile after crossing the Chehalis River bridge; the current address is 148 South Bank Rd. and included the property between Box 128-148. See Chp. 15.

(3) **Mary and Alvin Roderick's son Phillip** owned and operated this 192 acre dairy farm from 1949 to 1968. The farm is located at 500 South Bank Rd. Phillip and Sonja retained half the property and live there, at 479 South Bank Rd.

(4) **Mary and Alvin Roderick's** farm and home since their marriage in November 1935. Part of the original Roderick homestead which included 280 acres. See (6) . Of the original, about 140 acres have been retained by the family. Around 1900 Byron Roderick, Lynn and Alvin's dad, married Laura Enfield and settled on this part of the homestead, where they operated a dairy/beef farm. Birthplace of Lynn, Alvin and their three sisters and home where all five of Mary and Alvin's kids were born. Byron and Laura's home and barns sat near where Mary and Alvin's home sits today at 576 South Bank Rd.

(5) **Edith and Lynn Roderick**; site of their home on the Roderick farm from 1939-1941. Birthplace of Gerald and Glenn Roderick. From here they moved briefly to Cedarville and then by September 1941 to Matlock. See Chp. 19.

(6) Site of the original Roderick homestead and house. Settled in 1872 or 1873 by **Grant and Luna Jane Roderick**, Lynn and Alvin's grandparents. Birthplace of Edgar Byron Roderick. The 50 acres or so was later sold to Chris Damitio; the current address is 675 South Bank Rd. See (4) above.

(7) The home of Lynn and Alvin Roderick's sister **Leana and Victor Erickson** and Son's 300+ acre dairy farm. Original farm buildings were at Leana and Vic's home at 1518 South Bank Rd. and later moved to the other side of the Sharon Cemetery.

(8) The **Sharon Cemetery** within the Erickson property. The site where several Rodericks and relatives are buried.

(9) Homestead settled in the early 1870's by Lynn and Alvin Roderick's mother's parents, **Daniel and Mary Enfield**. For a time the home of Lynn and Alvin's sister Goldie, and their mother, Laura, after she left her and Byron's farm in 1935. The home and barn sat on the corner just before the railroad tracks.

Directions: Elma lies between Olympia and Aberdeen. At Elma take the South Elma, Satsop Nuclear Power Plant Exit and go south a mile or so until you cross the Chehalis River Bridge. Cross the tracks and stay left and you're on South Bank Road.

By the time Mary and Alvin married, Alvin, who had worked in the woods for several years, was operating the farm. Byron's health wasn't that good and he, Laura and Alvin's two children from a previous marriage, Lauragene and Alfred, had moved to the Infield farm. Byron died on September 14, 1936 of a brain tumor when he was 62. Laura died in June 1963 at age 83.

The Roderick farm had two houses, a chicken house, a grainery, a huge barn, a milk shed over the creek, an older house that was used as a garage, and a very classy out house. The privy was a "one stooler" build by the W.P.A. during the Depression. Behind the main house was Eaton Creek and the Milwaukee and Simpson Brother Railroads.

Phillip Edgar, their first child was born December 18, 1937, and a year later, Sharon Lee became the second, arriving on December 3, 1938. By then Mary had plenty to do with her share of the farm work to go along with the housework and caring for two infants. Electricity arrived in 1938 but still there wasn't running water. The diapers were washed in the creek . . . downstream.

Speaking of the creek, Phillip at age 1 1/2 wandered out for a dip one hot July day:

RODERICK CHILD SAVED BY HEROIC
EFFORT OF MOTHER

"Through the heroic effort of his mother, the two-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Roderick was saved from death by drowning Tuesday morning.

While Mrs. Roderick was bathing her baby, she missed the older child, and rushing from the house, discovered him in a creek near by. After putting in an emergency call for the doctor, she started artificial respiration and continued relentlessly until the doctor arrived about 20 minutes later, and the boy was just beginning to breathe.

Latest reports were that the child was none the worse for the experience, for which he can thank the presence of mind of his mother, according to Dr. A. A. Foote."

Elma Chronicle
July 13, 1939. Page 1.

By the 1940's the work horses were a thing of the past. The Roderick's new horses were a steel cleated, Fordson tractor, with a crank start and a 1937 Ford flatbed truck. Shopping at stores was almost non-existent. The Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogues were Mary's store. Once expired, the catalogues became the family's not so cushy toilet paper. The telephone was her grocery store . . . a call to Scrobbe's and Clancy's in Elma brought delivery of a week's groceries.

Marilyn Ann was born April 27, 1940, and August 17, 1941 marked the arrival of Ralph Randall, their fourth child.

The farm was a combination dairy and beef operation with a little of everything else thrown in. There were pigs, chickens, geese, 10 to 20 barn cats, a black collie named Ted, and a large garden. Alvin milked 20 to 30 cows by hand every morning and night and worked around the place during the day. In 1941 he took a job on the Grays Harbor County road crew. For the next 25 years he skillfully maneuvered a Gallion grader down every county road and a lot of driveways east of the Wynoochee River. The job and the extra money it brought came at the right time. Farm prices, which were still low because of the depression, were frozen by the War Price Stabilization Board.

Phillip, the first to go to school, started in 1944 . . . a 45 minute bus ride to Elma. School was a mixed bag for the kids. Phillip always seemed to be looking for ways to stay home. In the second grade he managed to stay out three months . . . he came down, with rheumatic fever. But the aches, pain and fever wasn't what he had in mind. In contrast, Ralph liked school so well (ha ha!) that he played dumb so he could spend two years in the third grade. Marilyn took school more seriously. She got certificates for perfect attendance and for not misspelling a word on any assignment for several years. Speaking of school kids and illnesses, Mary, like most of her counterparts, found herself doctoring the kids through the measles and the mumps and who knows how many other medical calamities.

The 1940's was an era of change. The hand pump on the back porch was replaced with running water and a ringer washer . . . the first of the modern features. The family got their first car . . . a 1941 two door Plymouth that was two tone purple. It was a reluctant starter so it spent a lot of time being towed or parked on a hill for an easy start. After the war "Pete" Nordwell, and Virgil Beerbower helped Alvin remodel the back porch. Half became a modern bath with a toilet, shower stall, sink and bath tub. The out house was retired. The other half remained a porch with a sink and a new, fully automatic, Bendix washer. It was always easy to tell when clothes were being washed . . . on the spin cycle the whole house shook.

In 1948 the farm got a new tractor, a Ford 8N. It's the same tractor Phillip recently had restored for Alvin. The old Fordson was sold to Lynn for $50.00. During the late forties and early fifties Alvin and the kids spent hours clearing the land west of the railroad tracks. Alvin dynamited, burned and pulled out the stamps.

Alvin learned to dynamite when he helped build logging roads for Weyerhaeuser in the Delezene Creek area. After a few years of blasting, tons of work seemingly lied ahead. So Alvin hired Cecil Bignold and his C 21 Allis Chalmers Cat to do the rest. It was one of the biggest around and made quick work of the job. The kids picked up the debris from the fields and tossed it on the pile.

It took nearly four years just to burn everything. About this time, 1951, the irrigation system was added. Now the cows had lush pasture all summer.

Undoubtedly the most important addition during this era was that of Gloria June who arrived on June 12, 1947. I fondly remember, as a six year old, how exciting it was to have a little sister. Kind of like having a new pet.

Oh yes; pets! Mary suffered through more than her share. The kids loved animals and everything they could get their hands on became a pet. Alfred and Alvin brought home two fawns who stayed around for three years. Then there were the crows, Calhound and Black Beauty taken from their nest as babies; a deodorized skunk; a squirrel, and a bobcat Phillip caught in his trapping days. Ralph even brought home a squealing weasel he pulled from a stump by the tail. It stayed around about 10 seconds. Thats how long it took Mary to explain in no uncertain terms to let it go! What started out as two parakeets in the house became an outdoor aviary of 20 to 30 birds for Sharon. Our more traditional pets included rabbits, sheep, goldfish, Red the cow, turtles, chameleon, hamsters and of course, a dog. The cats never really became pets . . . they were just around. Mary wasn't as fond of animals as the kids and refused to let the house become a menagerie. Only the caged animals like the hamster, and goldfish ever saw the inside of the house. The one exception was Toughy, Gloria's dog in the early sixties. To hear her tell it, Gloria was lonely, as her siblings were pretty much on their own.

By the late 1940's and early fifties the kids were big enough to take on chores. Sharon swept the house every day and did a lot of the cooking. Phillip brought in and fed the cows at night so they would be ready to milk when Alvin got home around 5 o'clock.

Ralph took over this job when Phillip started to work for other farmers. For their efforts the kids got an allowance, something like 25 cents a week. They also got a cow of their own and the money from the calf it had each year.

Alvin's two week vacation was taken in early July each year and spent bringing in the hay. Alvin and Phillip mowed and raked the hay and then everybody pitched in to get it into the barn. Phillip and Sharon using a b u ckrake on the back of the truck brought the loose hay to the barn. They unloaded by driving out from under the hay, and then they went for another load. Meanwhile Mary set the hay fork and Ralph pulled it up to the mow with the tractor. Once there, Mary tripped the fork and Alvin spread the hay and built the mow. Marilyn for the most part stayed indoors, reading and taking care of Gloria.

In April 1950 Mary took her first job outside the home. She had done a lot of berry picking, bark peeling and fir cone picking along with the kids. But that year she came the Local Enumerator for the U.S. Census. Today the census is pretty much a mail-in and telephone operation. Then it involved

going to each home taking a count and asking a few questions about age, ancestry, number of rooms in the house, and so on. At every tenth home a more detailed census was taken.

Entertainment for the family was radio, movies in town and board games. In 1952 television came to the Rodericks . . . one of the first in the area. The small screen, giant cabinet set offered one channel, King TV, and a fuzzy black and white picture.

Mary and some of the other women in the area started the Jack and Jill 4-H Club. This was in the mid-fifties when there seemed to be a lot of kids in their early teens. That lasted about three years as the kids grew into other interests.

In 1955 Mary took a job waiting tables but that lasted only a few days. Restaurant work didn't like her and vice versa. Then she got a job as an aid at the Beechwood Resthome in Elma where Sharon had worked during high school. Hoping to find a better job, she applied for job with the State in Olympia. After six months at Beechwood she got a clerk typist job with the Department of Revenue. Not long after getting on at the State Mary began a comprehensive accounting course offered by the La Salle Correspondence School of Wisconsin. She'd complete one chapter and work the problems, send the answers in and then get the go ahead to do the next chapter.

By 1956 the Rodericks were pretty much out of farming. Dairies were fast moving from a milk can, self sufficiency hand operation to a modern business requiring milking machines, milking parlors, milk tanks, lots of cows and big feed bills. Beef prices dropped again after several good years. Alvin continued to run a few beef cattle but eventually this was phased out. As the small farms ceased operations, the large dairies expanded their herds and needed more pasture . . . to date Alvin has been able to rent his fields.

By the late 1950's, Phillip, Sharon and Marilyn were on their own. So Gloria became the family cook and Ralph, head dishwasher.

Alvin continued to work for the county and Mary was off to Olympia each morning at 6:45 a.m. and not getting home until 6:00 p.m. She conscientiously worked on the accounting course for several years. That training helped her go as high as the rules would allow in the department without a college sheepskin. She moved up and also around the department. Moving from the Audit Section to Property Tax, to Use Tax, to Research and returned to the Audit Section as an auditor. After 22 years and over 5,000 trips to Olympia she became tired of rushing every morning. She retired July 1, 1978. Alvin had been promoted to foreman of the road crew in the early 1960's and after 26 years with the County, he retired January 1, 1967.

In contrast to her parents and her brothers and sisters, Mary and Alvin only moved once; and that, was only 20 feet. They moved in 1964 when they built their current home in front of the old farm house.

After retirement Alvin continued to do what he has always done . . . work. He has built and fixed fences for Ericksons (his brother-in-law) and has kept his place going, cutting lots of woods and growing vegetables and berries. Only his diabetes, which lead to the amputation of his right leg in 1981, has slowed him down. Like Ruby's artificial leg Alvin's modern version does not seem to fit the way it should. He gets sores easily which can take two to three months to completely heal.

Somewhere along the way Mary became a whiz with words. For a while she entered jingle types of contest, garnering prizes occasionally. Later she took up crossword puzzles. Ralph and her were playing tons of Scrabble at about this time. There must have been a winner but I can't remember who it was! When the automated bowling alley opened in town . . . she took up bowling. That was in the early 1960's and she has been bowling ever since. Her high game, so far, 204, and high series, 502. In recent years Mary has been very active in the Associated Grandmothers Club of Washington. For the past six years she's been elected State treasurer. Her other long time hobbies are bridge, bingo and Reno, Nevada. More recently she's added crocheting and cloth crafts such as Afghan, teddy bear clothes and slugs to sell at the Elma Slug Festival at the Grandmothers' Club booth.



Mary in Orland, California



Mary & Alvin Roderick



Mary & Alvin with their 5 kids;
Phillip, Marilyn, Sharon, Ralph,
Gloria



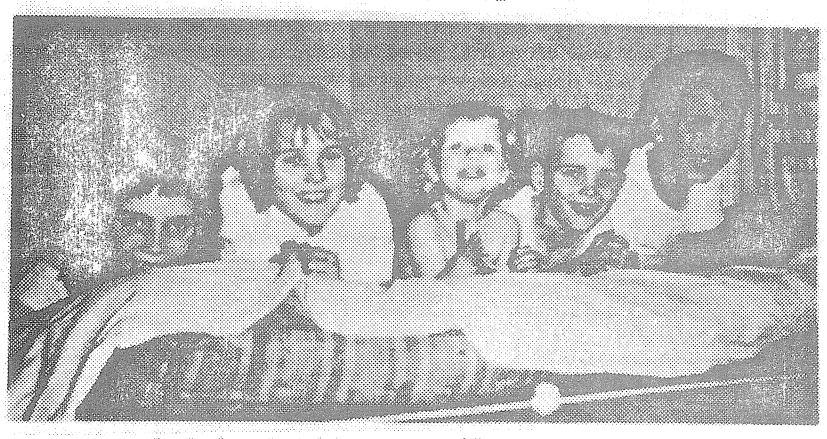
Phillip



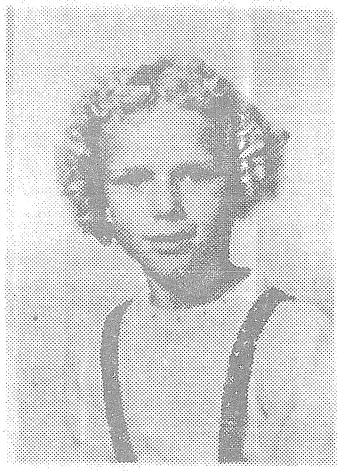
feeding time---Sharon, Marilyn



Marilyn & Gloria in concert



Mary & Alvin's 5 kids: Marilyn,
Sharon, Gloria, Ralph, Phillip



Gloria



Sharon holding sister marilyn on blanket made by their Grandma Pete (Ruby Nordwell)



Sharon, Marilyn, Phillip, Gloria, Ralph, Christmas 1978



Mary (left) retires granddaughter Sally Park on the right.



The bowling team, Mary & grandchildren Chris Park & Brenda Roderick



Mary & Alvin Roderick with their 5 kids and many of their grandkids. Olympia, WA. June, 1985



19

EDITH NORDWELL RODERICK
The Edith & Lynn Roderick family--Gerald, Glenn, Sandra

Being the youngest girl in a large family isn't always the best situation. But for Edith it wasn't bad. Being bossed by the older kids was the worst of it. In all, though the kids stuck together and seldom fought.

Edith was recruited early to be the family bottlewasher. At age 6, in 1926, she was in the first grade at Mary M. Knight. School was fun for Edith and she always found a way to be at school. Whenever she complained of being sick her dad would simply say . . . "Drink some water and you'll be okay". Edith went to school sick a few times but there must have been something to the remedy as she never missed a single day of school in her 12 years. That's really remarkable to me who wasn't so motivated.

Edith's parents Pete and Ruby were active members of the Grange and the kids went to all the events. There were fairs, dances and meetings. For Edith the square dances were the most fun. The meetings were only so-so. At the meetings the young kids were sent to the backroom while the business was conducted. That's when the fun started. The height of it all was when the Matlock Grange first opened in the 1920's. The inside hadn't been finished off so the kids climbed the rafters and crawled over by the meeting hall. Dangling from the beams they listened in on the adult program.

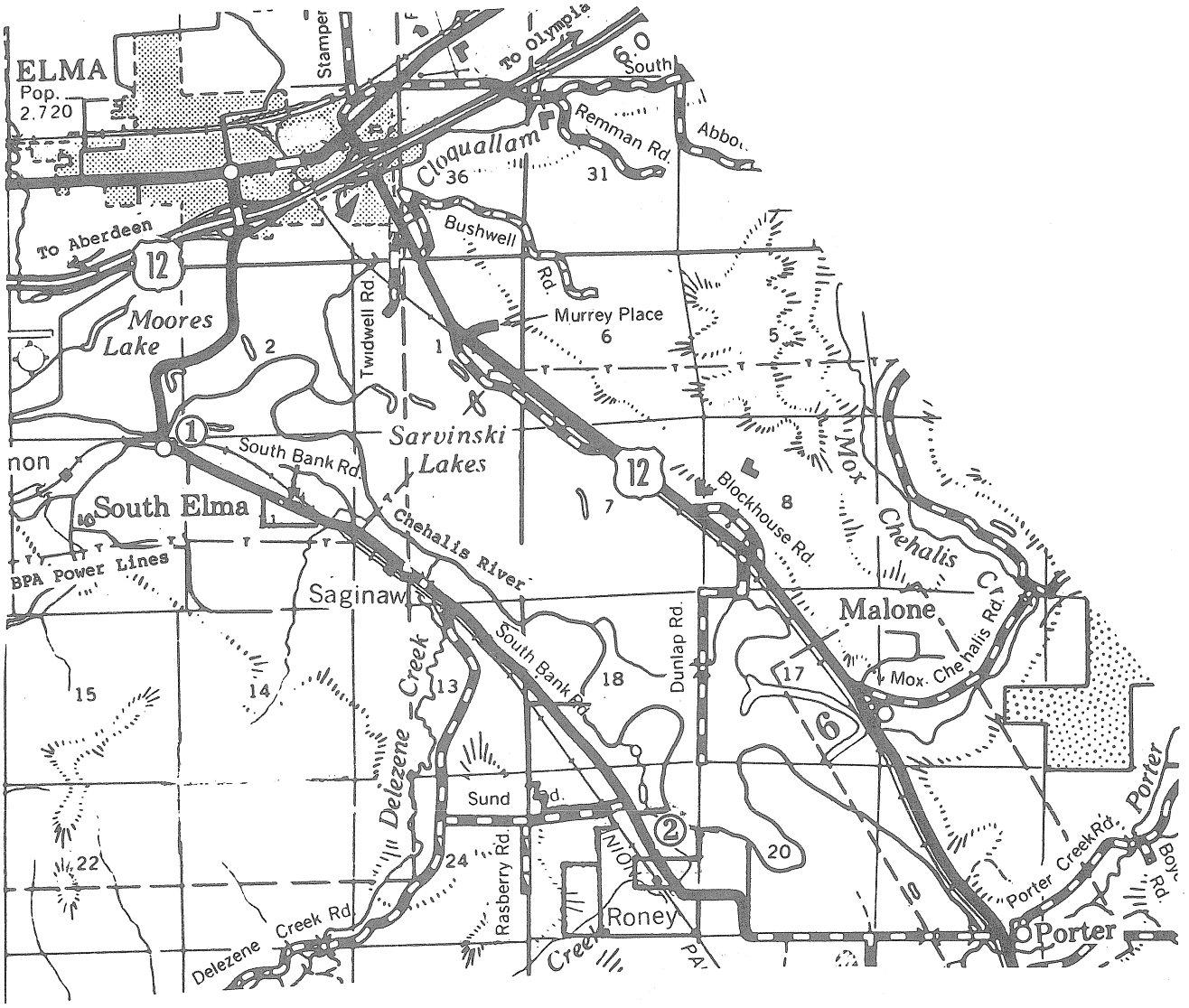
Swimming in the Satsop River and in Lake Newaltzel were favorite pastimes on hot days. Their parents took them but when Lester was old enough to drive he'd happily did the chauffeuring. The older siblings tried their darndest to leave Edith and Ernie home but got stuck with the little ones far more than they liked.

Edith met Lynn Roderick when his brother, Alvin, was seeing Mary. Mary and Alvin were married in 1935 and Edith and Lynn in 1936. Both married in Shelton. The Roderick family history is sketched in Chapter 18. Edith and Lynn's first home was a house owned by the railroad at South Elma (see Map).

Lynn, who was 28, was working for the Union Pacific. He first got a job with the UP in 1925 when he was 16. Those were part-time jobs so he still helped at home; milking cows, haying in the summer, and whatever. Lynn went to school in Elma and is thought to have gone beyond the 8th grade but didn't graduate.

(SOUTH) ELMA, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 Mile



① **Edith and Lynn Roderick**; the railroads house which they lived in from 1936 to 1939. Demolished in 1985 it was located between the road and tracks across from what is now 141(?) South Bank Rd. It is 1/10 of a mile on your left after you turn onto South Bank Rd.

② **Edith and Lynn Roderick**; site of their home on the Roderick farm from 1939-1941. Birthplace of Gerald and Glenn Roderick. From here they moved briefly to Cedarville and then by September 1941 to Matlock.

For the locaiton of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see South Elma map in Chapter 18.

EDITH GLADYS NORDWELL
B. 9-1-20
ORLAND, CA.
LYNN DANIEL RODERICK
B. 12-10-09
ELMA, WA.
D. 5-21-78
GLENN MARVIN RODERICK
B. 1-1-41
ELMA, WA.
SANDRA SUE RODERICK
B. 2-8-46 D. 10-14-71
ELMA, WA.
D. 10-14-71
CLIFFORD WALTERS
B. 11-18-45
ABERDEEN, WA.
CANDACE LYNN WALTERS
B. 12-13-63
FORT LAWTON, WA.
TUESDAY ANNE WALTERS
B. 7-28-64
FORT ANGELES, WA
SHIRLEY CHALLENDER
(Divorced)
MARY LUKE
B. 2-5-20
MODESTO, CA
Stepson
RICK FLANAGAN
B. 8-14-68
MODESTO, CA
JUDITH A. HARPER
B. 12-9-42
OLYMPIA, WA.
(divorced)
SHERRY LIN RODERICK
B. 5-1-62
OLYMPIA, WA.
BRUCE MARVIN RODERICK
B. 10-19-63
OLYMPIA, WA.
NATHAN MATTHIESON
B. 3-3-60
SEATTLE, WA.
(Divorced)
LEVI J. MATTHIESON
B. 12-20-81
OLYMPIA, WA.
JOHN SPARKS
B.
CA
SONNY JOE SPARKS
B. 11-26-83
CA
VILMA CRUZ
B. 9-20-57
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
GERALD ALLEN RODERICK
B. 4-24-39
ELMA, WA.
CAROLYN D. PIER
B. 6-11-38
CHEHALIS, WA.
(Divorced)
Q. BRETTY RODERICK
B. 1-14-68
MOSCOW, ID
JUDITH L. STAR
B. 12-26-43
OLYMPIA, WA.
(Divorced)
DARREN D. RODERICK
B. 11-28-62
SEATTLE, WA.
GERALD A. RODERICK, JR
B. 5-5-60
ABERDEEN, WA.
DENISE SEVISY
B. 4-23-60
TACOMA, WA.
(Divorced)
RONALD S. RODERICK
B. 12-22-81
OLYMPIA, WA.
KAYLA MARIE RODERICK
B. 12-7-82
OLYMPIA, WA.

The railroad job eventually became full-time. Lynn spent several years on the section gang, and in 1938 became a track operator. Each day he was given the schedules for the trains running that night between Hoquiam and Centralia. In a speeder, Lynn inspected the tracks ahead of each train. The job also involved some rail switching. If there was a landslide or other hazard Lynn would set out flares as a warning and go report the problem. With Lynn's okay the trains could travel full steam through the area.

Early in 1939 the section gang was reactivated on the line so Edith and Lynn were asked to move so the section foreman could have the house. They moved up to the Roderick farm and lived across the road from Mary and Alvin. The house was a large, single wall affair that had been moved onto the place, years before, from a nearby mill. The late 1930's meant the depression was still on, but Edith and Lynn were doing quite well. The railroad was a secure job and paid well. They had the home wired for electricity, got a 1935 Chevy coupe and anticipated the best.

Gerald Allen was born March 24, 1939 while they lived there and Glenn Marvin on New Years Day in 1941.

Mary and Edith visited a lot while neighbors, a tradition they carried on after Edith moved back to Matlock. Their main activity was the two "T's" . . . tea and talk. Rumor has it they gossiped! For sure they laughed a lot. On those few days when the weather was warm or better they'd round up their neighbors, the Palmers, and all the kids for a cooling dip in the Chehalis River.

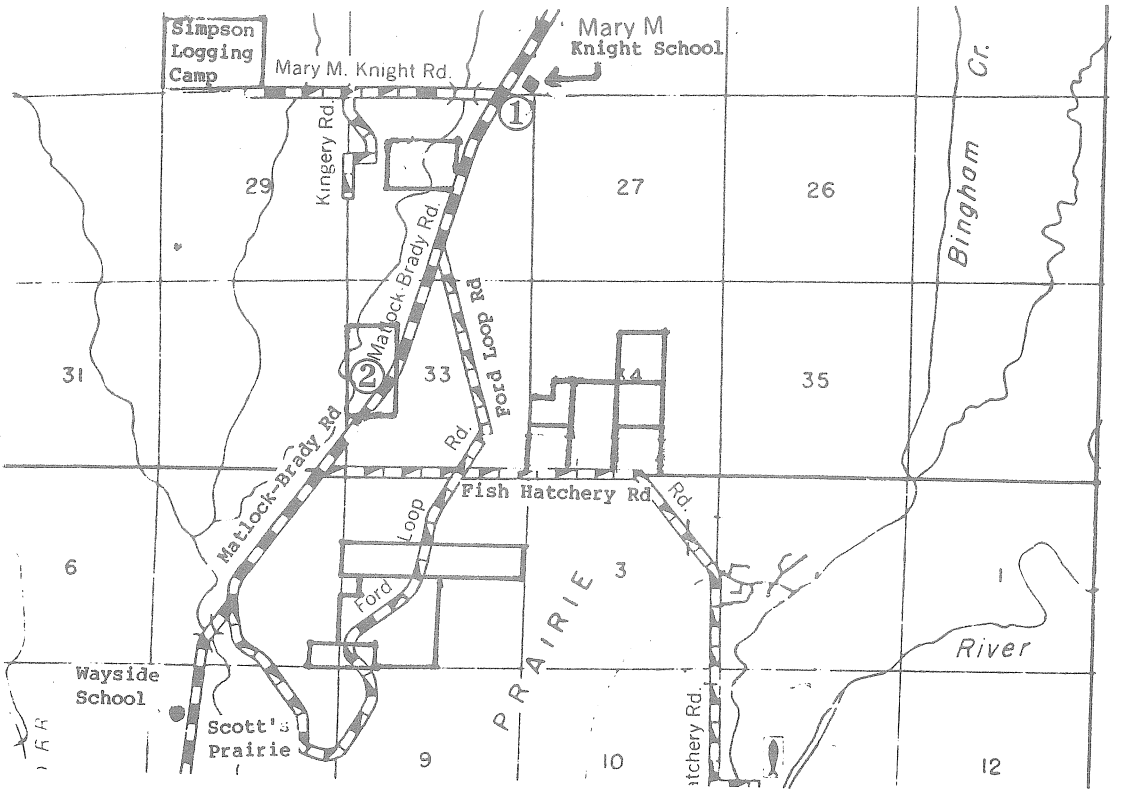
Track car, the official name for the speeder, went only one-way. Forward. So when Lynn wanted to head home he'd have to stop, pick it up by its handles, and physically turn it around. One night things didn't go right . . . he hurt his back. A few weeks later the UP informed Lynn, that for his own good, he should resign. After some searching, Lynn go a job on the section gang for the Schaffer Brothers Logging Company. It was about this time that they moved up to Cedarville.

More heavy railroad work wasn't what Lynn wanted nor needed but he took what he could get. He kept looking around for something less strenuous. It wasn't long before he landed a job with the Mary M. Knight School District. They rented a house from the school and Lynn started to work in September of 1941. The house set on the southside of the school and three or four house in from the road. Three houses remain but theirs is gone. On the job, Lynn was truly a jack of all trades. He was janitor, bus mechanic, bus driver, maintenance man, wood cutter for the furnace and just about everything else anybody could come up with. The wood was cut with a dragsaw. After World War II the wood furnace was replaced with an oil burner.

During the war Lynn joined the Air Observer Corp. (Edith has Lynn's Corp patch.) The Observers were an at home civilian organization connected with the U.S. Army Air Force. The volunteers in the neighborhood took turns watching for enemy aircraft from a tower on a hilltop near Matlock. They took

MATLOCK, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Edith and Lynn Roderick** rented a house from the school while Lynn was maintenance man, 1941-1951. Birthplace of Sandra Sue. The house is no longer there but was the third or fourth in from the road on the south side of the school building.

② **Edith and Lynn Roderick's** 80 acre property and home from 1951 to 1958. From here they moved to Montesano. The current address is Rt. 1, Box 139, Elma, WA.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Matlock map in Chapter 12.

their mission seriously because of the downing of a Japanese Zero off Alaska in 1942 and confirmed sightings of Japanese subs off the coast of Oregon and California.

Sandra Sue was born February 8, 1946, while they lived at the school. Five years later, after 10 years at the school, Lynn wasn't happy with how his hectic job was going and resigned. It seemed he had as many bosses as things to do. The family moved about a mile south to an 80 acre property. The place was well wooded and crossed the Drybed Creek in several places. However there was no house and no well. They cleared a spot and drilled a well. All the while Lynn was house hunting. He found a vacant house but it was 25 miles up the Cloquallun beyond Bucks Prairie. They jacked the house up and got it onto an old dock wagon. Slowly it was towed home with their old steel cleated Fordson tractor.

Lynn went into logging, working for local gypos, as the small independent logging companies were called. There was John Comfort, Cy Johnson, Warren Kingery and Jack Adams to name a few.

They also decided to do some farming. Not on a large scale but enough for their own meat and a few extra animals for the cash. They got a couple of holstein calves, some pigs and chickens and were in business. Within a year the effort faded. As it turned out there were just too many tears when the "pets" were scheduled for the locker.

In the late 1940's and in the 1950's the Roderick kids were playing cowboys and indians in full garb, kicking and gaffing salmon out of Decker Creek, and keeping a keen ear out for the the game warden. For spending money they picked up beer and pop bottles from along the road and after dances at the grange halls. The going rate; one cent for stubbies and two cents for pop bottles. They also joined Edith and the other Nordwells in the woods, picking fir cones and peeling cascara trees. Cascara bark was used in medicines primarily as a laxative. The big timber companies started buying fir cones in the 1940's when the industry took to heart that the vast northwest forest was exhaustible and that reforestation promised a future.

Edith liked to go after the fir cones, particularly when the seed count was high, thus the payback was high. Bottle hunting at old homestead sites and rockhounding are now of special interest. She likes the outdoors but has always shied away from blackberry and mushroom picking.

In 1957, Gerry and 9 others graduated from Mary M. Knight. At the time he was working at Williams Tire retread shop next to the Elma fairgrounds and had plans to attend St. Martins College in Olympia. Glenn worked at the tire shop off and on, and Lynn, who was working for Jack Adams, drove from job to job in the Gray's Harbor area. In short cars and gas were costing a fortune. So, in January 1958 they moved to 103 Glenn Street North in Montesano. That was short lived however as Jack Adams got a contract to log the Rosario property on Orcas Island. Lynn went up in the spring and Edith, Sandra and Glenn followed when school let out for the summer. The idea was to stay for

the entire show, about 2 years. But the kids felt homesick and Lynn, who liked to hop in the car and drive, felt confined. That summer they packed and returned to Montesano, moving back into the Glenn Street home which had been left empty during their island stay. Lynn then went to work at the E.C. Miller Cedar Mill in south Montesano.

In 1960 Glenn graduated and Sandra became a ninth grader. Two years later Lynn and Edith bought a half interest in a Texaco service station on Simpson Street in Hoquiam. Lynn and his partner, Hal Eubanks, worked at the station, pumping gas and doing minor repairs. Edith took on the daily bookkeeping chores. Things went well for a while but like many working partnerships . . . it didn't last. After less than a year Edith and Lynn sold their share, fortunately, at a profit.

With the local economy booming Lynn was able to get back on at the cedar mill. Later the mill was rumored to be changing hands and then that the mill would be closed. Lynn jumped over to Weyerhaeuser when he got the chance. A few months later he was back at the cedar mill, which was still being operated by E.C. Miller.

Edith took her first job outside the home in 1970 when she waited tables at the Linkshire Cafe in Central Park. The Cafe now called "Murphy's" was a drive-in with a small seating area inside. Actually she did about everything, including managing the place when the owners took off. That is she did everything except cooking . . . "No way would they get me over that hot grill!" At the restaurant the money and responsibilities didn't always match up. So after three years she turned in her resignation and stayed home for several years.

In 1971 Glenn was living in Olympia, was married, had two kids and working in a tire shop; Gerry was in the Coast Guard in California, and Sandra was married to Clifford Walters, and living in St. Helen's Oregon, and had two girls Candace age 8 and Tuesday, 7. October 14, 1971 turned out to be a very sad day for all. Sandra was on her way to a class at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington. As she drove the two lane road a car heading her way passed another car in a no-passing zone. He didn't get back in his lane on time and Sandra paid with her life for his mistake.

At the cedar mill Lynn worked the night shift; first on the green chain and then as a millwright. In 1973, at age 63, he had a serious heart attack, but with bypass surgery and determination he was back on the job within a few months. After surgery they put him into the planerman's job. That is, he set the saws so the lumber came out the right dimension. This lighter duty allowed him to work until he was 65, at which time he promptly retired.

During retirement Lynn fixed lawn mowers and other small engines. He fixed things more as a hobby or a favor to people as he charged for parts but little if anything for his time. He also spent time at the local pubs and at a beach cabin they had in Moclips. On May 21, 1978 while in Moclips he had another heart attach and passed away. Lynn, like Sandra, is buried in the Wynoochee Cemetery just west of Montesano.

When Lynn had his surgery the doctors opinion was that Lynn would never work again. With that news Edith went job hunting. She got on as a clerk in the Montesano Sprouse-Reitz store. She stayed with the job but by the time Lynn passed away she had her sights on their management program. In 1979 Glenn's family and Ralph, her nephew, packed her belongings into a U-haul truck and moved her to Vashon Island, near Seattle. After six months there as a management trainee, Edith now 60, moved to the managers job at the Stanwood Store. In 1980 she returned to Montesano store as its manager.



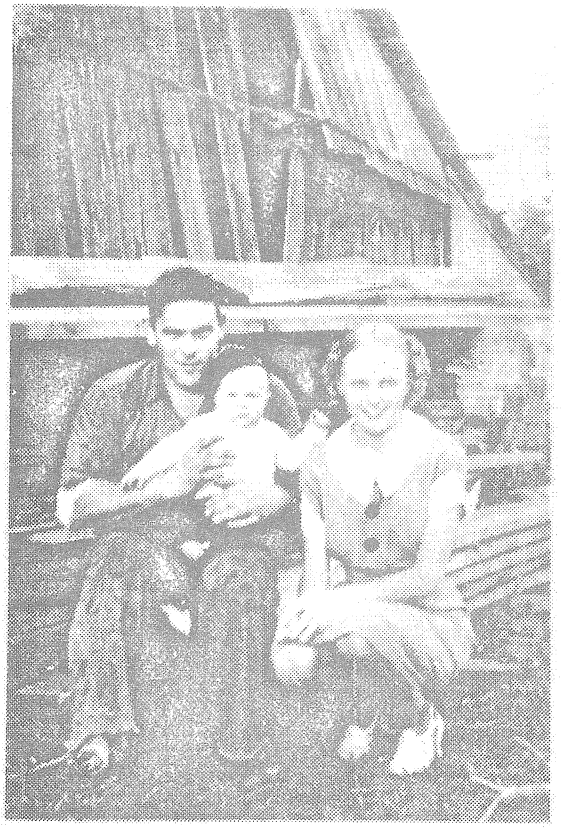
The Vidette, Thursd

After nine years with Sprouse-Reitz, Montesanan Edith Roderick returned to the local store last week as its new manager. Beginning at the Montesano outlet in 1971 as a clerk, she transferred to the Vashon Island store in 1978, where she became its assistant manager. After a short 18-month stay, Mrs. Roderick then went to the Stanwood store, where she served as manager until her transfer last week back to the Montesano outlet.

Courtesy of the Montesano Vidette.

She settled back into the Glenn Street home which she had rented during her absence. A year later she invested in a small house at 844 East Park, just a couple of blocks away. There she came to fully realize how costly it is to fix up older houses. As a result she started looking across the street to a solid two story home at 714 East Park to replace the Glenn Street house. She moved into the house in June 1985. The old home has far too many ailments. The foundation, floor and possibly termites all need attention.

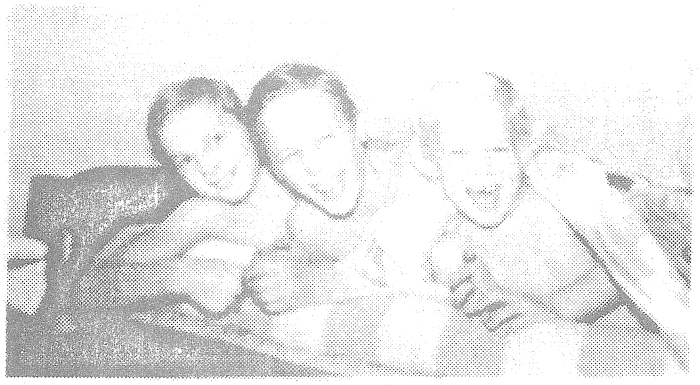
On September 1, 1985 Edith turned 65. A question lingering in many of our minds is: "Is there retirement in the near future?" An insider's tip is . . . don't bet your last nickel on it. She likes her job too well and feels too good to jump at retirement just yet.



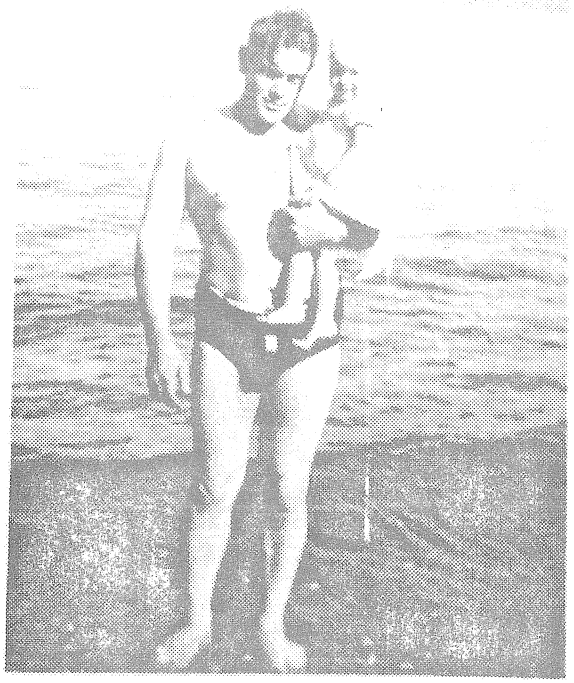
Edith with Lynn holding Gerry at Roderick So. Elma farm



Edith holding Glenn; Gerry at their home on Roderick So. Elma farm



Gerry, Glenn, Sandra



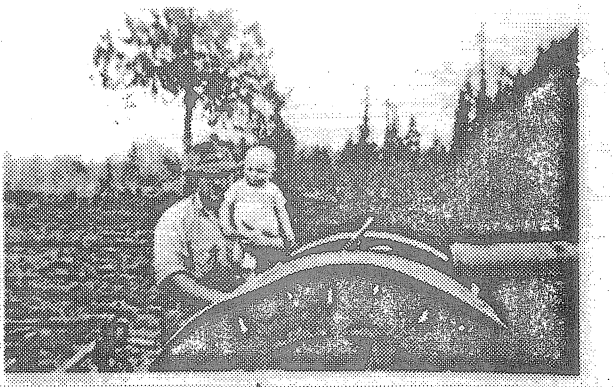
Lynn holding Sandra at Lake Nahwatzel



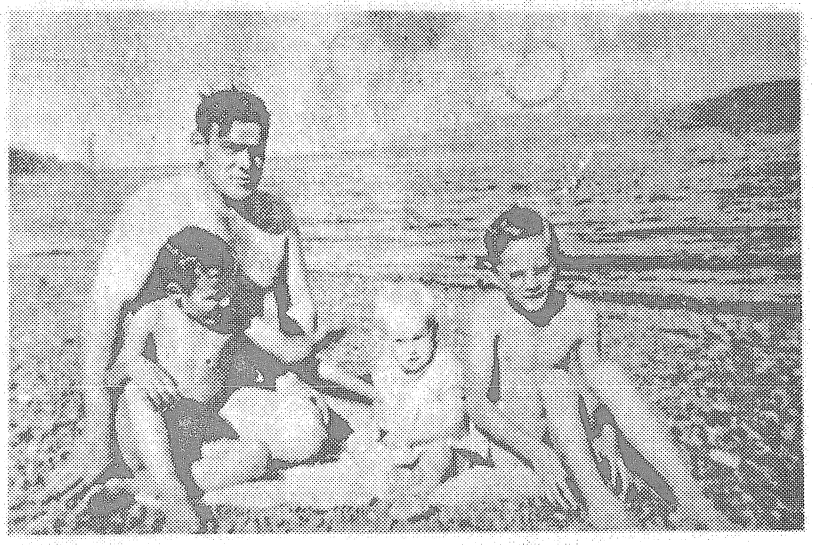
Edith, Lynn & their 1941 Chev. convertible



A day's catch; Glenn, Lynn, Gerry



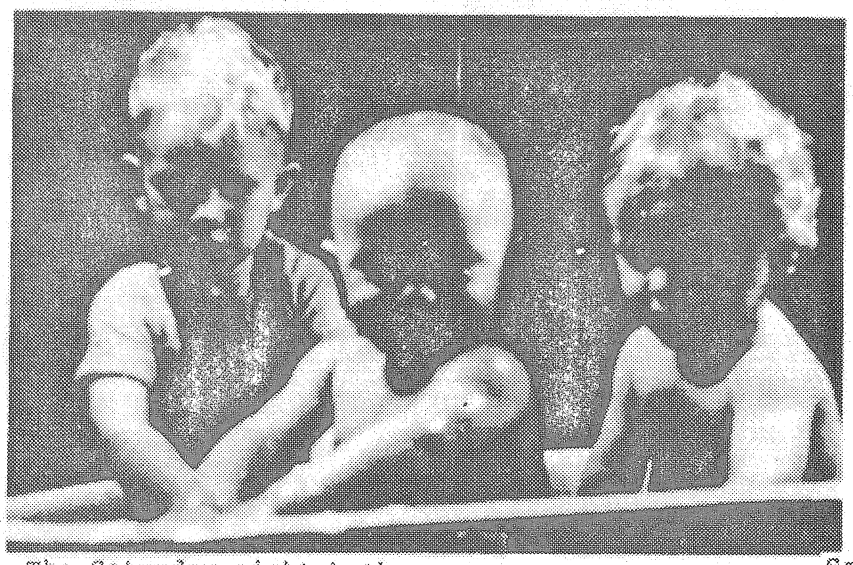
Lynn & Gerald



Lynn holding Glenn; Sandra, Gerry



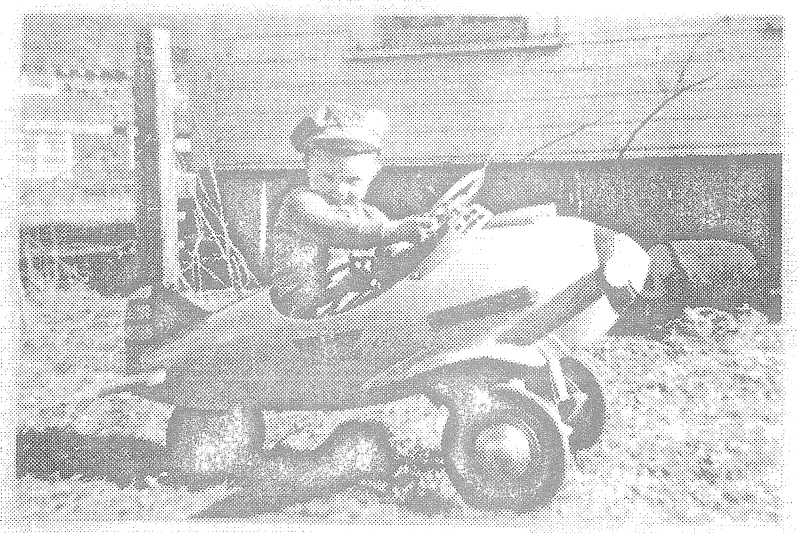
Gloria Roderick Park & Sandra Roderick Walters
Oct. 1966



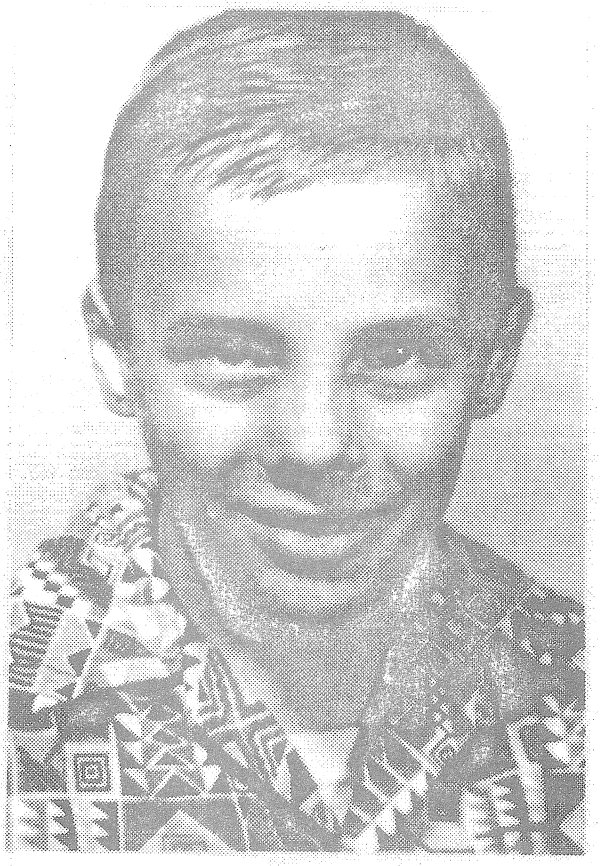
The Saturday night bath.
Gerry center with cousins
Phillip and Sharon Roderick



Sandra & Butch Walters at cousin Gloria Roderick Park's wedding reception. Elma, October 1966



Gerry and his WWII flyer trike



Gerry Roderick



Christmas: Glenn, Gerry, Sandra, Edith



Sandra



Glenn

NOTES



20

ERNEST NORDWELL
The Ernie & Wilda Zschomler family--Karen, Linda, Steve, Kim

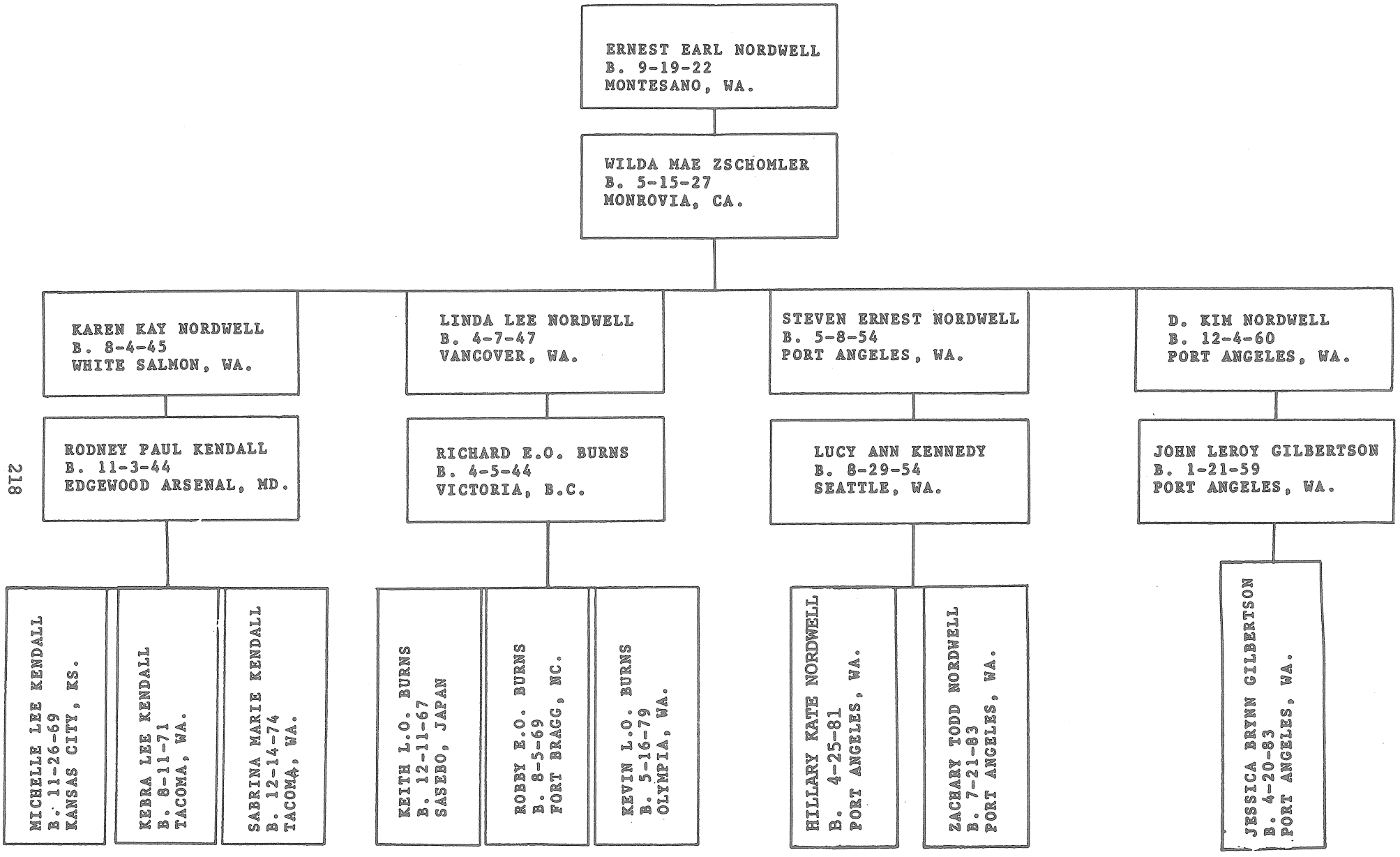
It is 1938. Ernie, the youngest of the Nordwell kids is 16 and the only one at home. All the girls were married and starting their own families. Actually, Lester (Pete) now 22 was at home but pretty much on his own. He and Ernie did a lot of the chores. Ernie's main job was to milk the 20 to 25 cows and fix supper. Lester missed the morning milking now and then and without the help Ernie ran late. When that happened he missed the school bus. He could either hop on his horse Silver and ride to school or stay home. In his last two years he tended to favor staying home. The family didn't have money for allowances, so for money Ernie picked whatever came into season and helped neighbors. He sold blackberries, that is after enough had been picked for the family jams and canning. He also picked a lot of fir cones and peeled cascara bark. One of his favorite and most lucrative jobs was to cowpunch for the neighbors. They would hire him and sometimes Lester to bring in one or two of their cows from the range. He'd saddle up Silver, ride out to Carstairs Prairie, cut the cattle out from the rest of the herd and drive them to the neighbors barn. For this he usually got a dollar but got as much as $15.00.

Between his junior and senior year Ernie and a friend, Bob Todd, joined the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC). They were barracked at Quilecene and spent the summer fighting forest fires, building roads and cutting fire wood.

Ernie graduated number one in his class but being quiet and bashful, at least in front of a crowd, he didn't go to the ceremony. That must have made his parents happy!

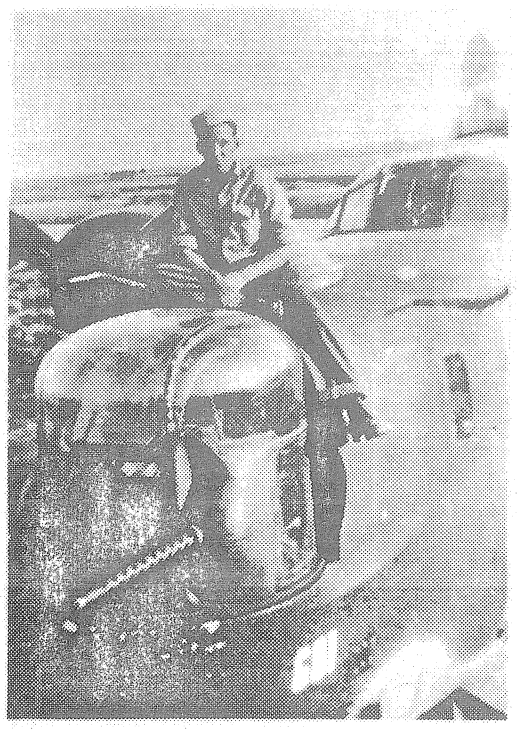
After his senior year in 1941 Ernie and his friend Jim Hess went to Yakima to work in the hop fields. They stayed with Uncle John Scouller' on their farm on McDonald Lane. They had a great time that summer but picking hops wasn't exactly their forte. They were a little too slow to make much money. So when they got the chance they switched to picking apples. They weren't much better at that so they ended the season working in a cold storage warehouse.

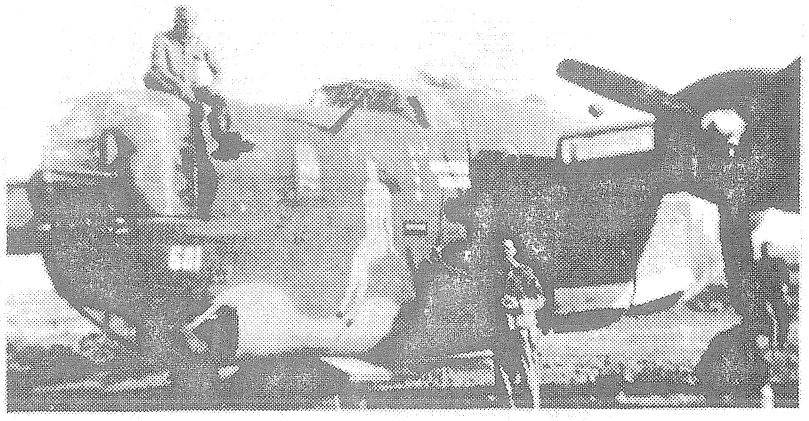
All this wasn't for naught. They did bring home a few dollars and Ernie met Wilda. Her parents, Henry and Cecil Zschomler, operated a small store on Riverside Lane, which was out in the hop fields half way between Moxee City


ERNEST EARL NORDWELL
B. 9-19-22
MONTESANO, WA.
WILDA MAE ZSCHOMLER
B. 5-15-27
MONROVIA, CA.
KAREN KAY NORDWELL
B. 8-4-45
WHITE SALMON, WA.
LINDA LEE NORDWELL
B. 4-7-47
VANCOVER, WA.
STEVEN ERNEST NORDWELL
B. 5-8-54
PORT ANGELES, WA.
D. KIM NORDWELL
B. 12-4-60
PORT ANGELES, WA.
RODNEY PAUL KENDALL
B. 11-3-44
EDGEWOOD ARSENAL, MD.
RICHARD E.O. BURNS
B. 4-5-44
VICTORIA, B.C.
LUCY ANN KENNEDY
B. 8-29-54
SEATTLE, WA.
JOHN LEROY GILBERTSON
B. 1-21-59
PORT ANGELES, WA.
MICHELLE LEE KENDALL
B. 11-26-69
KANSAS CITY, KS.
KEBRA LEE KENDALL
B. 8-11-71
TACOMA, WA.
SABRINA MARIE KENDALL
B. 12-14-74
TACOMA, WA.
KEITH L.O. BURNS
B. 12-11-67
SASEBO, JAPAN
ROBBY E.O. BURNS
B. 8-5-69
FORT BRAGG, NC.
KEVIN L.O. BURNS
B. 5-16-79
OLYMPIA, WA.
HILLARY KATE NORDWELL
B. 4-25-81
PORT ANGELES, WA.
ZACHARY TODD NORDWELL
B. 7-21-83
PORT ANGELES, WA.
JESSICA BRYNN GILBERTSON
B. 4-20-83
PORT ANGELES, WA.

and Yakima. The Zschomler's, who are of German descent, had moved up from Monrovia, California in 1933. First they moved to Bonners Ferry, Idaho and a couple of years later to the Yakima Valley. Wilda and her two brothers and two sisters all went to school at Moxee City. Ernie and Wilda didn't date that summer as she was but 14.

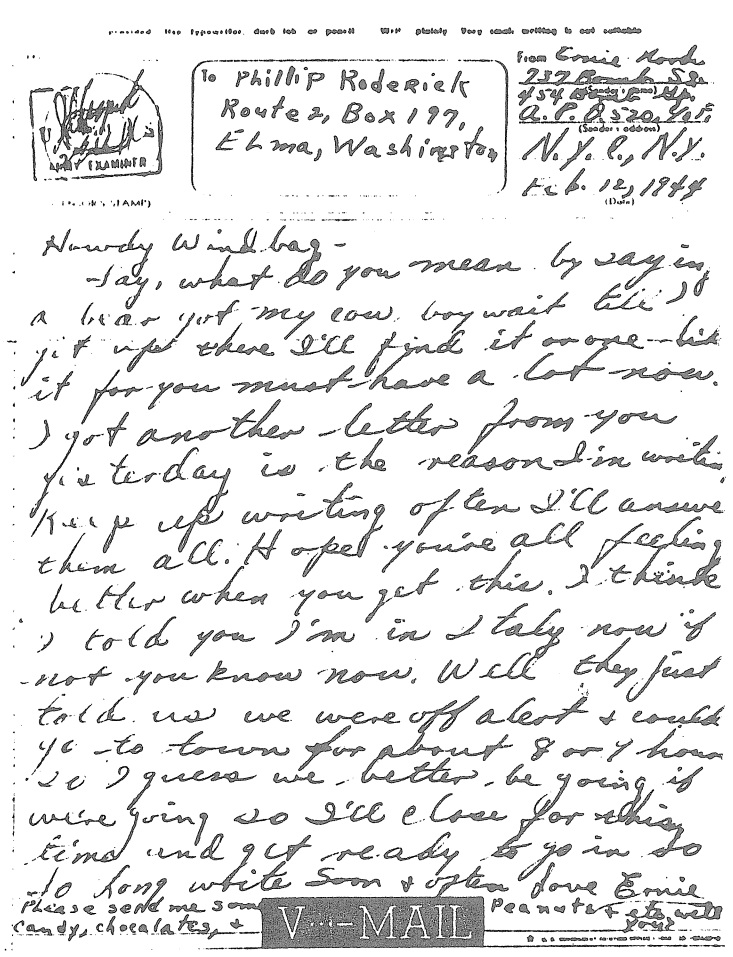
That same year, eleven days after the Japanese attach on Pearl Harbor, Ernie and Jim enlisted in the Air Force. During his 46 months in the service he was transferred 20 times. First he was at Fort Lewis, near Tacoma; then Sheppard Field in Whichita Falls, Texas for airplane mechanic school. Next he attended P-38 mechanics school in Santa Monica where he lived in style at the Edgewater Hotel. Santa Rosa, California was the next, here he worked on P-39 fighter planes. It was here that he volunteered to become an airplane gunner and just like that he was off to Utah to another school. After this training he went to Clovis, New Mexico where he and nine others were assigned to a B-24 Bomber officially called the Liberator but called the "flying box car" by those who flew them. Ernie and the crew called their plane "bubble trouble" as the bombardier's sights were always a problem. The Liberator had a maximum speed of just over 300 m.p.h., an operating weight of 52,000 pounds and a range of 2,400 miles. Sleek she wasn't but for the times she had the fire power. Soon Ernie's unit was off to practice bombardiering and gunnery. First to South Carolina, then to Mitchell Field in New York and Marshall Field in Florida. Just before Christmas 1943 the Liberator headed to the town of Orcas in North Africa and then to Casablanca, Egypt. From there they flew their first missions into German occupied territory. Before long they moved to the European theater . . . Italy.





Ernie and the Liberator "Bubble Trouble"

In their first 12 missions Ernie had six hits to his credit. Ernie was the nose gunner and triggered a twin 50 caliber machine gun. It was pretty much a manual operation. He had to crawl into the nose of the plane, turn, aim, and fire the gun from his cramped position. Between missions Ernie sent V-mail to friends and relatives including his six year old nephew Phillip Roderick and his girl, Wilda.



provided. Use typewriter, dark ink or pencil. Write plainly. Keep each writing in own outline.

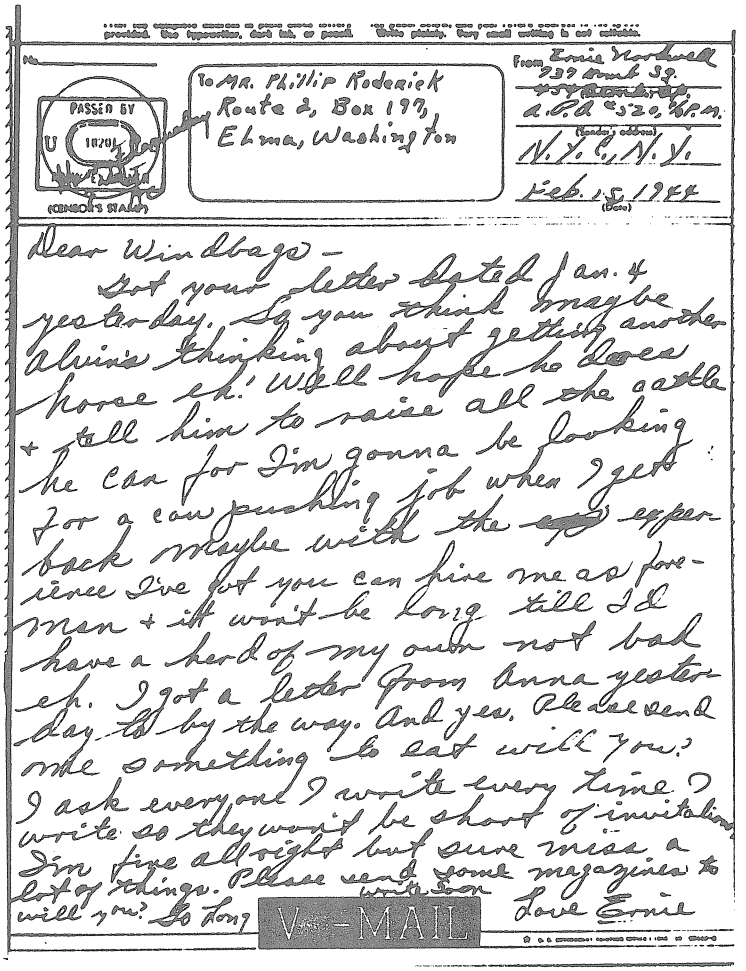
To Phillip Roderick
Route 2, Box 197,
Elma, Washington

From Ernie Roth
237 Bomb Sq.
99 Group (Heavy) APO
A.P.O. 520, c/o P.M.
N.Y.C., N.Y.
Feb. 12, 1944

Howdy Windbag -
Say, what do you mean by saying a bear got my cow. boy wait till I get there I'll find it or one - but it for you must have a lot now. I got another letter from you yesterday is the reason I'm writing. Keep up writing often I'll answer them all. Hope you're all feeling better when you get this. I think I told you I'm in Italy now if not you know now. Well they just told us we were off alert + could go to town for about 8 or 9 hours so I guess we better be going as we're going so I'll close for this time and get ready to go in so long write Soon + often Love Ernie

Please send me some Candy, chocolates, + Peanuts + etc. will you?

V-MAIL



provided. Use typewriter, dark ink or pencil. Write plainly. Keep each writing in own outline.

PASSED BY U 10701

To MR. Phillip Roderick
Route 2, Box 197,
Elma, Washington

From Ernie Roth
237 Bomb Sq.
99 Group (Heavy) APO
A.P.O. 520, c/o P.M.
N.Y.C., N.Y.
Feb. 15, 1944

Dear Windbag -
Got your letter dated Jan. 4 yesterday. So you think maybe Alvin's thinking about getting another horse eh. Well hope he does + tell him to raise all the cattle he can for I'm gonna be looking for a cow pushing job when I get back maybe with the experience I've got you can give me as foremen + it won't be long till I'll have a herd of my own not bad eh. I got a letter from Anna yesterday. by the way. And yes. Ole send me something to eat will you? I ask everyone I write every time I write so they won't be short of invitations I'm fine alright but sure miss a lot of things. Please send some magazines to will you? So long write soon Love Ernie

V-MAIL

In the upper left corner notice the censors stamp. That was a necessary job and both fun and tedious! Also between missions they waited for the next assignment.

Their thirteenth mission was over northern Austria on March 19, 1944. That day they were hit. Two of the four engines were out. The shouts from the pilot sent the message: "We're going down!" Soon the engines burst into flames. Ernie peaked out from his crawl space but couldn't see the ground. His bombardier mate took off which worried Ernie. He was suppose to stick around and among other things hand the nose gunner his parachute which was stashed outside the turret, well out of Ernie's reach. Ernie scurried to get his chute. By now he could see the ground approaching much too fast. The first five that bailed out lit near a German occupied town and were taken prisoner. Ernie and the copilot, a captain, were the next to jump. A hard pull on the rip cord. Nothing happened. A second pull, "pop" the chute opened. On the way down the radio operator passed Ernie. His chute hadn't opened. The tail gunner and navigator went down with the plane.

Ernie landed in a field near a house. He lit hard but was ok. The copilot landed along a timbered hillside. The found each other and with determination and their escape kits, began the long journey to friendly territory. The kit had three weeks ration, $40.00 in cash, a compass and map.

Being in a bomber crew was dangerous to say the least and getting shot down was not that unusual. Of the 18,188 Liberators produced during the war, the most we had in operation at anyone time was in September 1944 when 6,043 were flying. Since the air war was fought over German territory one of two things happened if you went down. You died or were taken prisoner. In fact, that's why most of the "ace" pilots were German. If they survived being shot down, they could hop in another plane and chalk up some more planes on the score card.

Back home, word came that Ernie was missing in action (MIA) in Austria.

Mr. Peter J. Nordwell,
Box 171,
Elma, Washington.

AAF 201 - (3293) Nordwell, Ernest E.
19059846

May 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Nordwell:

Under date of April 11, 1944, The Adjutant General notified you that your son, Sergeant Ernest E. Nordwell, had been reported missing in action over Austria since March 19th.

Further information has been received indicating that Sergeant Nordwell was a crew member of a B-24, (Liberator), bomber which departed from Southern Italy on a bombardment mission to Steyr, Austria on March 19, 1944. Full details are not available, but the report indicates that during the mission our planes encountered hostile fighters, and in the ensuing battle your son's bomber sustained damage and was seen to lose altitude rapidly. The report further states that this occurred at about 1:45 p.m. over Eastern Austria. The crew members of other planes in the formation were unable to make further observation of your son's craft, therefore there is no other information available at this time.

Due to necessity for military security, it is regretted that the names of those who were in the plane and the names and addresses of their next of kin may not be furnished at the present time.

The great anxiety caused you by failure to receive more details concerning your son's disappearance is fully realized. Please be assured that any additional information received will be conveyed immediately to you by The Adjutant General or this headquarters.

Very sincerely,

CLYDE V. FINTER,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief, Personal Affairs Division,
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel.

The journey out, if it were to be, would be no simple hike. Ernie and the Captain kept moving, sticking to the hills and the cover of the trees. It wasn't long before their rations were running low. During the fourth week they came to another small village. It was in German territory but not German occupied. Before they left, the Germans flew in on a bombing raid. Ernie ran for cover but not fast enough . . . bomb shrapnel gashed his left shoulder. They gave it what first aid they could but it wasn't enough to keep it from becoming infected.

They kept moving and soon came to a farm where they were invited to supper. They really enjoyed the people and all the food. They stuffed themselves as never before. But less than five minutes after leaving both were vomiting . . . apparently their stomachs couldn't handle so much normal food!

With their rations all but gone they turned to foraging and lifting eggs and anything else they could safely take. They kept moving and 6, 7 and 8 weeks later they were still in enemy territory. Ernie's shoulder was badly festered and smelled worse than its wretched look. He had lost forty pounds, exhausted and had gotten to a point where he really didn't care if he was captured or not. Anything to end the ordeal would have been welcomed. Fortunately they soon came upon an underground operation in Northern Greece. Every few nights an American plane would come in to evacuate allied soldiers. Each night they'd hike down from the hills and wait. On the third night the plane came and two exhausted but very happy airman climbed aboard. Looking back over their nine week escape route they figured they had covered over 860 miles, which translates to 14 miles a day.

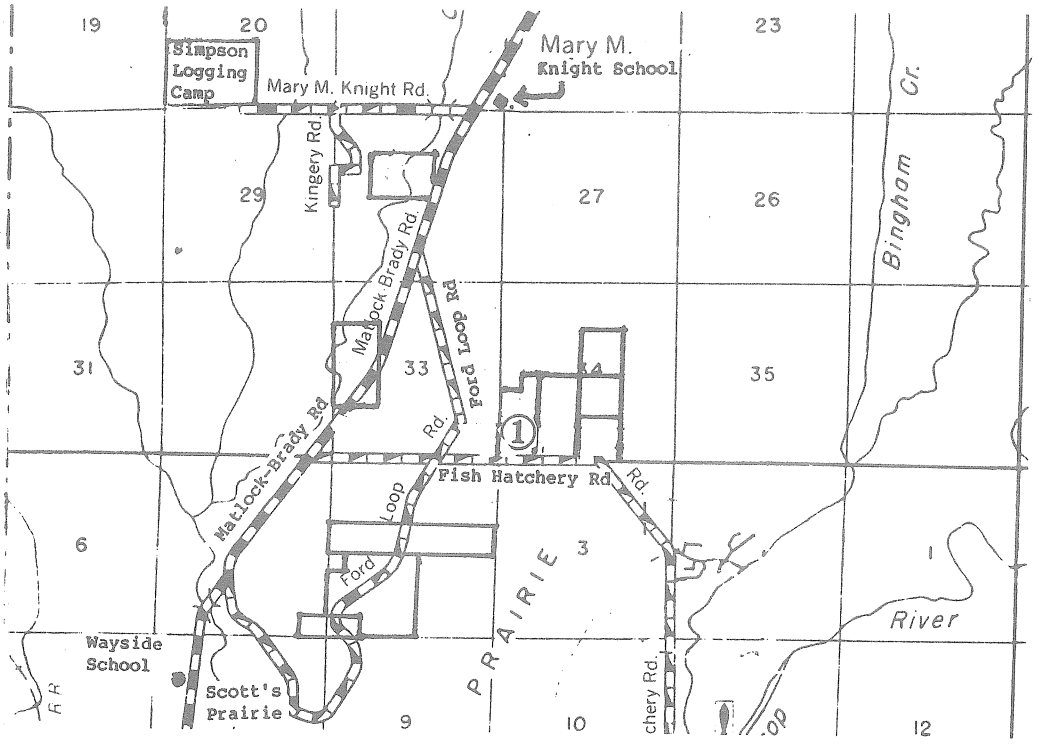
Ernie's shoulder was so bad that the doctors cleaned it right away. They wanted to do a skin graft but Ernie was more interested in getting home. After some arm twisting and fast talking Ernie headed home on a 31 day leave. After leave he was sent to New Mexico for six months rehabilitation; to make sure there wouldn't be any mental problems from his ordeal. Again with some arm twisting Ernie was able to get a transfer to Fort George Wright in Spokane for the same treatment. He wanted to be closer to home and to Wilda. While Ernie was stationed at Spokane he and Wilda got married on August 7, 1944 in Stevenson by a minister friend of Wilda's family. Karen was born in Stevenson on August 4, 1945. In October, with a scarred shoulder, a purple heart and a bronze star as mementoes, Ernie was mustered out of the service.

After the service they set up home in Stevenson. By then the Zschomler's had moved to Stevenson where Henry was a security guard at the Cascade Locks. Ernie landed a job on the railroad crew. Later he started working in the woods for Broughton Lumber setting chokers and whatever. Linda was born a couple of years later on April 7, 1947 in Vancouver, Washington.

In 1949 they moved north to Matlock settling on the 70 acres his dad gave him next to his brother Lester. The place was thick with fir, alder and brush but had no house. The Scotts, a neighbor, had a barn that was falling down and Ernie talked Sam into letting him tear the barn down for salvage. With this he built what Wilda terms a shack; but one large and comfortable enough for the four of them. The place also needed a well. In those days most people couldn't afford to have their wells drilled. So they dug and dug. Wells had to be four feet square so there was room to dig deep. The sides

MATLOCK, WASHINGTON

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile



① **Peter J. Nordwell's** 70 acres which he later gave to his son **Ernie. Was Ernie and Wilda Nordwell's** home from 1949 to 1953. From here they moved to McDonald Creek near Port Angeles.

For the location of all our relatives in the area and driving directions see Matlock map in Chapter 12.

were held in place with cedar. Ernie dug most of it himself but had help from Lester, and from Wilda who pulled up and emptied the buckets of dirt and mud. Things went well except once when the rope slipped and the empty bucket whacked Ernie's head. Twenty days and 40 feet later Ernie was standing in a fresh underground spring.

During this time Ernie worked for Anderson-Middleton, falling and trimming trees. It was up at 5:00 a.m. and out the door to catch the crew bus at Brady. Then a long ride up above Quinault and a 90 minute hike to the timber. After 5 hours the homeward trip began. In all he was away from home 13 hours but actually worked only 5 hours as the hike to and from the log show was part of the work day.

In 1953 a forest fire devastated the area where Ernie was working and the crew was laid off. With money in short supply Ernie started logging his place. Lester logged his place about the same time with Beerbower hauling the

fir to the mill. The alder was sold as plug poles for use in paper rolls. Ernie hauled load after load of plug poles in his old army jeep and homemade trailer to a small mill just past Schafer Park. They cut the cedar which they split into shakes and sold by the square.

Later, in 1953, Ernie and Wilda sold their 70 acres to Seeley Anderson. Seeley, in turn sold it to the Simpson Logging Company. The family, at first moved to Brady, renting a duplex from Seeley. It wasn't long before they were moving to a farm on the McDonald Creek along Highway 101 halfway between Sequim and Port Angeles. They brought up nine head of cattle from Matlock and Ernie found a new job, working in the woods. This job didn't last long. On the third day he was falling a hugh snag near a ridge above the road. When the snag fell it flipped up just missing Ernie and scooted down the bank. In its path stood the bosses parked pickup. Now unemployed and having experienced his third brush with death in the woods he felt it was time to find something less dangerous. He took a job in the finishing room at the ITT Rayonier pulp mill in Port Angeles.

At home Wilda and the two girls, Karen and Linda took care of the farm chores and kept the household running and the house in shape. One day, however, the well was having problems so Ernie was summoned to go down and see what could be done. Ernie, with a rope around his waist, lowered himself. In the process he got wedged near the narrow bottom. After all else failed Wilda tied the rope to the car. But to no avail. The car tires just spun and smoked on the green grass. Finally, a neighbor came over. He wasn't quite so gentle. He gunned the car and took off. Ernie literally came a fly'n out of the ground.

About a year after moving to McDonald Creek, Steven Ernest was born on May 8, 1954 and six years later Kim was born on December 4, 1960. Gradually the farming was replaced by horses for the kids.

Fishing has been Ernie's long time hobby. It all started in the early 1960's. A friend from Oregon persuaded Ernie to go fishing with him at Lake Crescent in the Olympic National Park. The attraction, no license was needed and troll fishing was very relaxing. After a couple of trips and good catches, Ernie had a new hobby. It wasn't long before his fishing was getting him in the media. In 1963 a photo of Ernie and his days catch appeared in the Port Angeles Evening News. In the early 1960's he was in "Field and Stream" Magazine. A short article by Frank Dufresne mentioned Ernie's fishing, unfortunately we were unable to locate the article. He seldom strayed from Lake Crescent but in 1965 he entered the Port Angeles Labor Day Weekend Salmon Derby. Yup! He caught a salmon, a 28 pounder. And yup, he won. The winnings: a photo in the local paper, a hand shake from fellow contestant Governor Evans and a shining new Mercury Comet automobile. Here's the fish story as told on the front page of the September 6th, 1965 Evening News:

ERNIE NORDWELL TAKES IT

28-POUNDER WINS BIG DERBY

By SCOOTER CHAPMAN

One more try for a bigger salmon paid off in a big way for Ernie Nordwell, Rt. 2, Box 1638, the champion fishermen of the 28th Port Angeles Salmon Derby.

NORDWELL TOPPED the 848 entrants in the derby, held under perfect weather conditions Saturday and Sunday off Ediz Hook. Even the fish cooperated for the annual fishing event. A run of silvers, weighing from four to 16 pounds hung around Ediz Hook, enabling almost every entrant to land a fish.

Nordwell, who works at Rayonier, Incorporated had placed a salmon on the ladder earlier, in the day Saturday, but decided to take one more crack about 1:30, just one-half hour before the final bomb.

HE HOOKED INTO HIS 28-pound beauty just off the point at 1:45. A judge boat was nearby and urged him to boat the fish and get it to the beach before the deadline.

He managed to get the fish in the boat after it ran out three or four times, in spite of a rather small net. He landed the salmon with about eight minutes left. He then raced to the beach, leaped into the water, ran the fish to the scales and made it just as the final bomb sounded.

It was also in 1965 that the family moved from McDonald Creek to their present home at 624 N. Lincoln in Port Angeles.

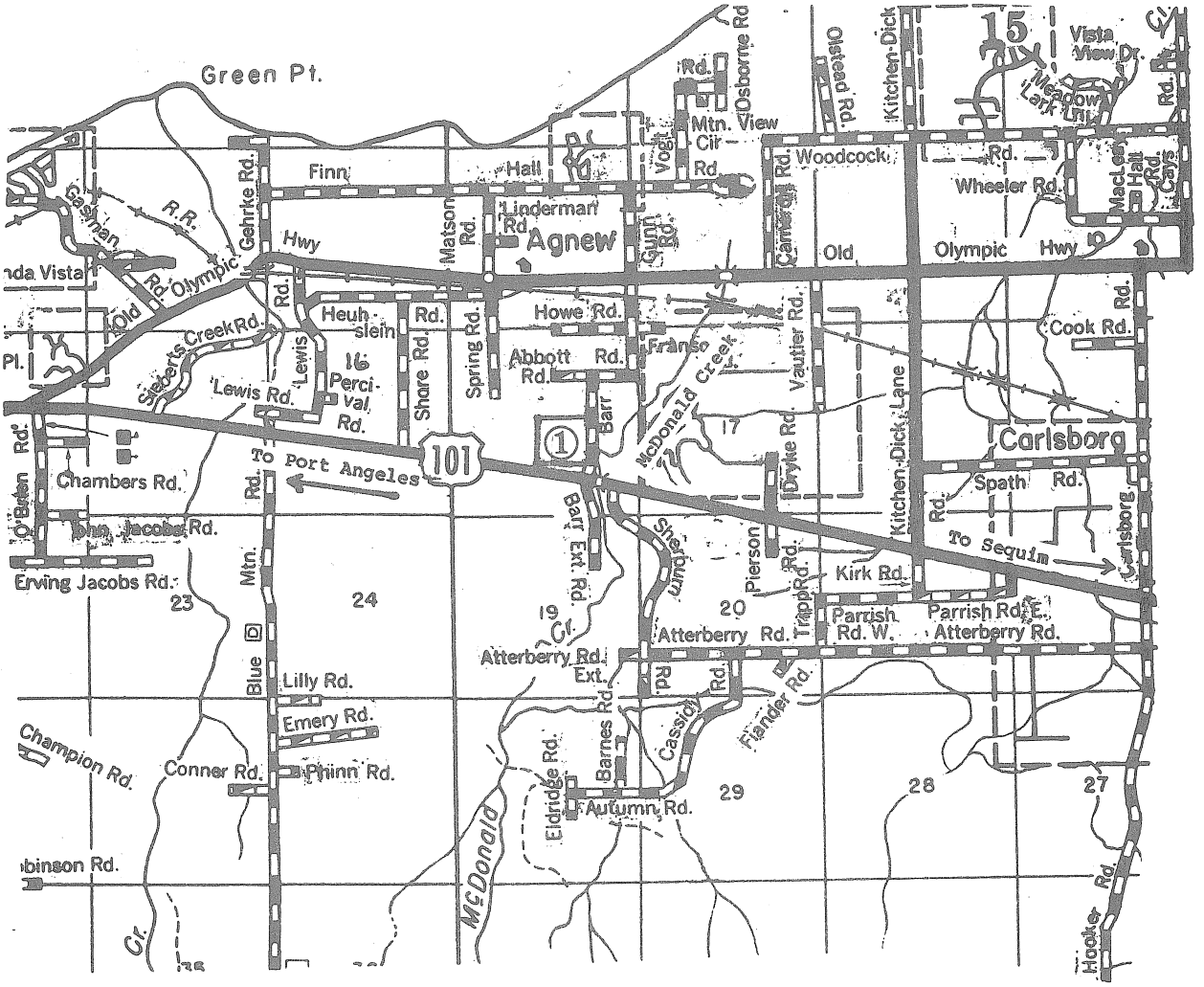
Ernie's biggest trout to date weighted in at 17 pounds 12 ounces. He didn't keep track of how many he caught until 1983. That's when the Park Service began an environmental monitoring program for Crescent Lake. During the 1983 season Ernie landed 67 and in 1984 he landed 57.

All this makes it sound like all Ernie does is fish, actually he plays golf pretty well. Well enough to have bagged four holes-in-one!! At work he transferred from the finishing room to the pulp testing lab in 1958. Then in 1979 he moved over to the Environmental Section which operates the mills secondary treatment facility.

After 31 years at ITT Rayonior, Ernie retired at age 62. With accumulated vacation leave he walked away from the mill July 10, 1984 even though his official retirement didn't begin until October. Retirement has meant more time with the family and 9 grandchildren, and of course it'll be easier to find the time to fish, golf and get ready for the annual volleyball game at the family picnic.

McDONALD CREEK, WASHINGTON
(BETWEEN SEQUIM AND PORT ANGELES)

Note: Each Section Square = 1 mile

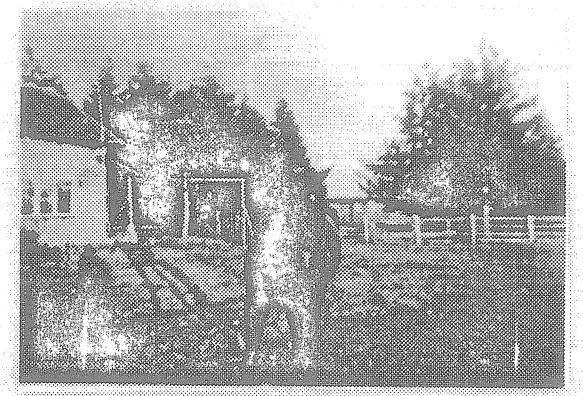


(1) **Ernie and Wilda Nordwell's** 37 acre farm and home from 1953 to 1965. From here they moved to 624 N. Lincoln in Port Angeles. Birthplace of Kim and Steven Nordwell.

Directions: The farm is 6 miles west of Sequim and 8 miles east of Port Angeles. From Sequim watch for Pierson, then Sherburn Roads. Just after corssing the McDonald Creek bridge . . . its small . . . turn right onto Barr Road and there it is. (Note: I have another map that says this road is Gunn Rd . . . so the road may be marked Gunn Rd.)



Ernie & Wilda



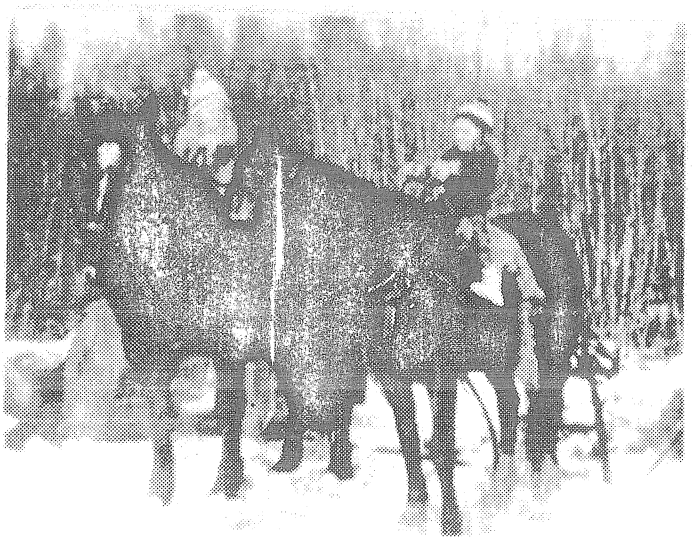
Ernie's horse Silver



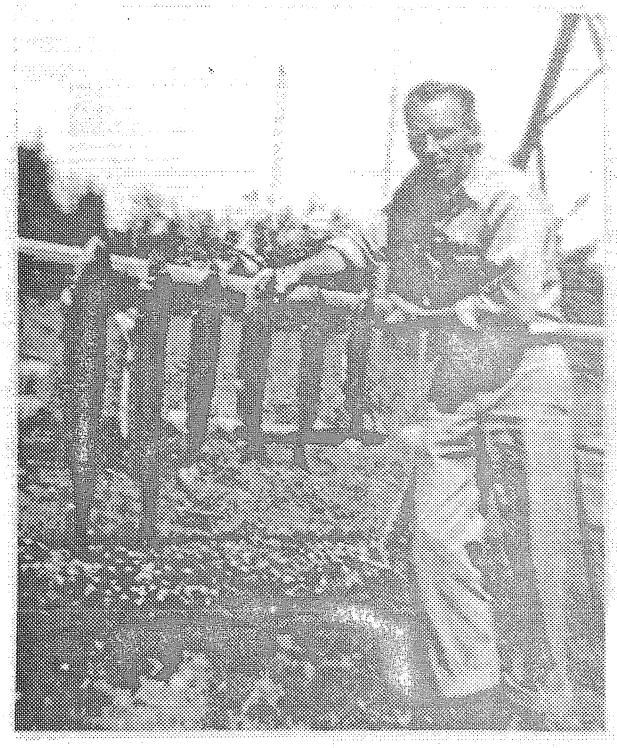
Karen & Linda



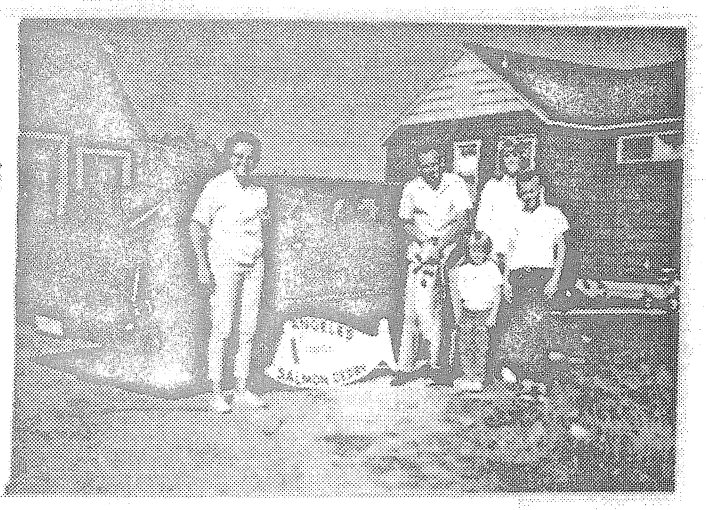
Ernie



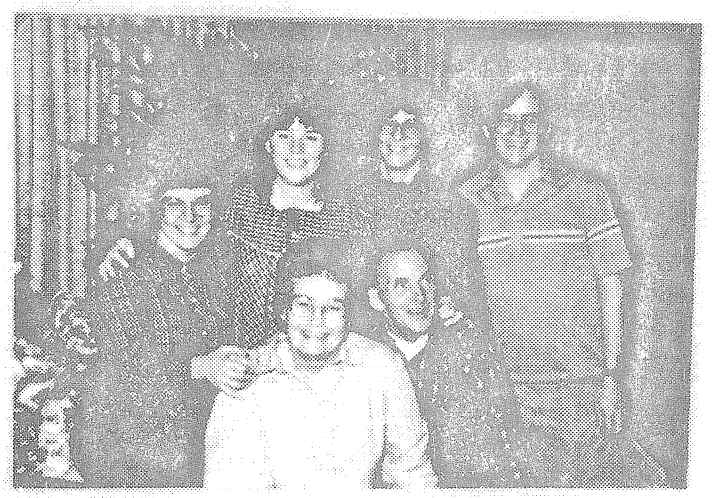
Karen & Linda on grandparents work horses



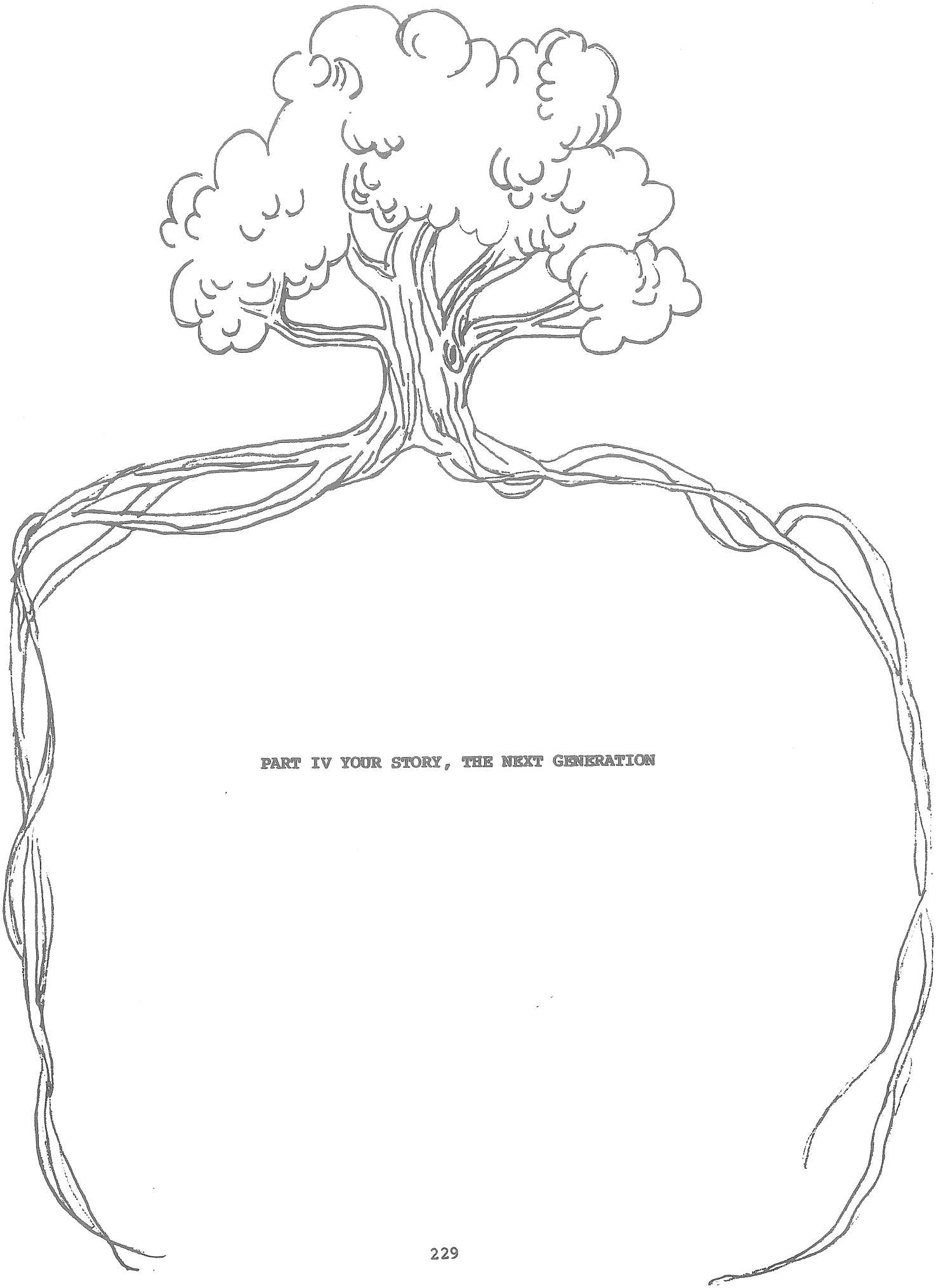
Six big ones



The Salmon Derby Winner & the new "Comet"



Ernie & Wilda with their grown children: Karen, Kim, Linda, Steve



PART IV YOUR STORY, THE NEXT GENERATION

QUESS WHO

The next chapter is yours. It's intended for you to write about a more recent generation of your family. Once written, and typed take it and the book to a print shop. Most can punch holes, tear apart and put back together again while you wait. If you can't find a place let me know.

Before we end for now, see if you can identify these photos.

①



②



Answers:

① Aymalee & Ralph Roderick . . . as if they were in 1885.
Centralia/Chehalis Fair 1985

② I'll never tell!!

. It's been fun!



21

THE STORY OF _____

(Story continues the family found in Chapter_____)

(Family chart continues the chart on page _____)